

Bay Area Reporter

VOL. XXIII NO. 25 JUNE 24, 1993

395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



The first of nearly 1 million people congregating for April's March on Washington, a celebration that no doubt will pale in comparison to San Francisco's Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day 1993. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

We Continue To Walk Together

by Mayor Frank Jordan

The theme of this year's Gay Parade, "The Year of the Queer," speaks against breaking down a person's identity by use of a single qualifying word: No person should have the ability to use words against a community.

Rather than recognize the power of words, I regard the strength of actions. And I feel our actions speak loudly that San Franciscans will not accept discrimination between communities, or within them.

Over the last year, my office has worked with lesbian/gay and bisexual organizations throughout the City to advance human rights issues for San Francisco's diverse population. Emphasizing that diversity

should not create division, our combined efforts have made San Francisco a model of acceptance and a leader in Civil Rights for the entire nation. Since last year's Parade, the united effort to advance gay issues moved forward month by month on many levels.

In August, we first addressed Domestic Partners Policy by supporting the extension of benefits to partners of BART employees. The following month, I joined you in criticizing Governor Wilson's veto of two needle exchange bills, and I pledged continued support of this issue: I immediately directed my staff, the Department of Public Health and the City Attorney's Office to work closely with the Board of Supervisors and various com-

munity groups to arrange for a publicity-supported needle-exchange program.

November arrived, and conscious of the changing demographics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, I announced my office's involvement in a public private partnership to specifically tailor our AIDS response services to the needs of all San Franciscans. My office of Community Development joined the United Way and Levi Strauss Foundation in underwriting a planning document for HIV/AIDS care to communities of color — the first such study in the nation — in a collaborative effort by the Asian/Pacific AIDS Coalition, the American Indian AIDS Institute, the Black Coalition on

(Continued on page 10)

Non-discrimination May Come to San Jose

by Dennis Conkin

The San Jose Unified School District will consider whether to add sexual orientation and other non discrimination clauses to the contracts of more than 1,500 members of the San Jose Teachers Association.

A decision about whether the language will be added to the teachers contracts will be finalized in September, according to Peter Dal Poggetto, a member of Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators.

Dal Poggetto, a special education teacher in the 38th school district, the largest of more than 40 districts in Santa Clara County, said that he approached the union to add the language, and the union has included the interest in its annual contract demands with the school district.

"Very few school districts actually have non-discrimination language. Oakland, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and the Richmond Unified School District are among the few that do," Dal Poggetto told

the Bay Area Reporter.

"We have a good contract, but we've never had non-discrimination language in the contract," he said.

Also to be added to the contracts is language forbidding discrimination on the basis of political affiliation, race, religion, age, creed, or ethnic background.

"I'm hopeful that other teachers will approach their associations and find out if non-discrimination language is in their contract, and bring it up as an issue and have it put in their contracts," Dal Poggetto told the B.A.R.

In 1990, Dal Poggetto was instrumental in having domestic partnership bereavement leave benefits added to SJUSD teacher's contracts.

Health benefits are not included in the contracts — yet.

"We are working toward that goal, but it is a long process," Dal Poggetto said.

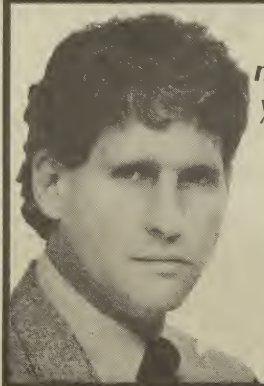
The contracts must be approved by the SJUSD Board of Education and then ratified by the Teachers Association. ▼

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First of Three Sections

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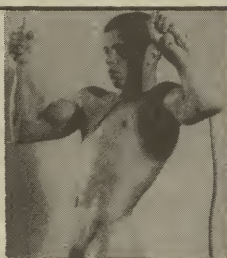
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Community News



Women's Action Coalition points out that each new palm on Market Street cost \$3,000 while the treatment of one rape survivor who goes through the San Francisco General Hospital Rape Crisis Center costs \$1,300.

(Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

WAC Stages Treemendous Protest

by Rene M. Astudillo

Groups protesting the health budget cuts in San Francisco have become as creative as the budget planners themselves. In the tradition of tying a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree, members of the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) wrapped a huge white streamer around two recently-planted Royal Palm trees near the corner of Market and Castro streets last Saturday afternoon. For two hours, about 50 women circled the palm trees, chanting and shouting protest slogans.

One side of the streamer read, "1 Palm Tree \$3,000, 1 RTC Client \$1,300." RTC is the 24-hour Rape Treatment Center housed at the San Francisco General Hospital, and is one of the many institutions and programs threatened by Mayor Frank Jo-

dan's proposed budget cuts. Aside from offering medical treatment for physical abuse injuries, the RTC also provides counseling and crisis intervention.

"Do you want our blood on your palms?" a WAC statement read. "If we can afford \$3,000 per palm tree to line Market Street, surely we can afford to maintain an already ailing health care system."

Up to \$88 million in proposed cuts to the city's health department will result in the closure of most city health centers and will greatly reduce services at the SFGH. However, the mayor's office had said last week that as a result of a \$24 million savings from city contributions to the retirement fund, cuts in the health budget will not be as bad. Of this projected savings, \$16 million is said to be immediate.

Saturday's protesters re-

mained skeptical of the mayor's commitment to restore funds for vital health services. While they acknowledged that monies for the rape treatment center have been partially restored, they pointed out that any health care cuts will disproportionately affect women and children. They added that two-thirds of adults living at the poverty level are women.

Jill Tallmer, one of the organizers of the WAC protest, said that Jordan is too preoccupied with "pleasing tourists and baseball fans while basic human rights like health care have eroded." She said she hopes that the issue of the budget crisis does not get lost in the midst of the lesbian and gay pride festivities this weekend. The mayor's proposed budget will be taken up by the Board of Supervisors on Monday, June 28th. ▼

Just in Time for Gay Pride Weekend:

Kaufman Said, "Change Please" — And MUNI Did

by Dennis Conkin

Thousands of Muni patrons wanting to ride from Castro Street on the underground subway system won't have to worry about having the change for a buck to get on the LRV anymore.

Machines that will change dollar bills to coins to get patrons inside the system will be installed by Gay Pride Weekend, according to Supervisor Barbara Kaufman's office.

Kaufman, in response to a letter from a constituent's complaints that the Municipal Railway System has no change machines in its Van Ness, Church Street, Castro Street or West Portal Stations, contacted Muni General Manager Johnny Stein about the problem in May.

"Supervisor Kaufman received a letter from a constituent who said that it was frustrating wanting to use the system but not always having coin change, and having to go



Supervisor Barbara Kaufman
(Photo: Judi Parks)

find a merchant who might change a dollar bill. Not all merchants are willing to do

that," said Kaufman aide TJ. Anthony.

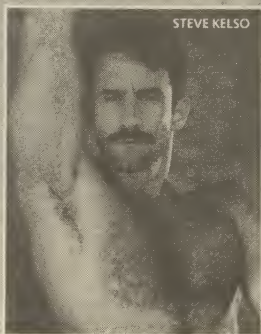
In response to a written request from Kaufman, Stein ordered the machines — two for each station — and planned to install them at the end of June or in early July, but after Kaufman followed up on the matter, Stein said he will have the two machines in the Castro installed, so tens of thousands of Muni riders in the Castro can use the LRV system.

"The goal is to encourage people to use public transportation," said Anthony, who admitted the Castro Street station, with its often-decried lack of change machines, "wasn't set up to provide access to the system."

Although the first machines will be in the Castro Station, Muni will install the other eight machines — which cost an estimated \$2,000 each — in the subway stations after Gay Pride Weekend. ▼

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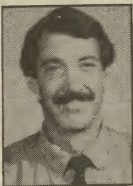
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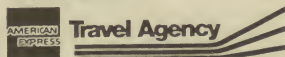


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Community News

Domestic Partnerships: How To Have a Very Married Gay Day

by Rene M. Astudillo

It's gay pride week and the controversial ban on gays in the military is sure to surface in many more ways than one. But other significant issues may come to mind, as gay men and women gather this weekend for the traditional parade, fair, and partying. One issue that's probably closer to the hearts of most gay men and lesbians than wanting to join the military is that of same-sex marriage.

In the Bay Area, several cities and counties do recognize domestic partnerships under ordinances approved by voters. Such landmark ordinances have been in place in San Francisco and Berkeley since 1991. A similar legislation went into effect in Marin county only last week. Domestic partnership is probably the closest lesbians and gays can get to same-sex marriage in this country, unless some significant progress results from a recent court case ruling in Hawaii declaring that the state acted unconstitutionally when it refused to grant a marriage license to a gay couple.

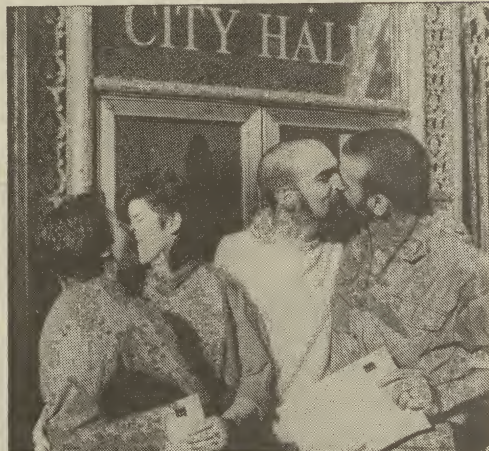
Since February 14, 1991, when San Francisco's Domestic Partnership ordinance went into effect, some 1,800 couples have registered their partnerships with City Hall. "This does not mean these are the only domestic partners in the city," said Nancy Alfaro of the county clerk's office. A couple can set up a domestic partnership without going through city hall, by having their declaration of domestic partnership notarized. In Berkeley, approximately 150 couples have filed for domestic partnership. In Marin, 19 couples have so far registered as of last Friday. None of the city and county clerk offices however, tracks the kind of domestic partnerships being registered in terms of being homosexual or heterosexual.

To set up a domestic partnership, a couple must be at least 18 years old, live together, and agree to be responsible for each other's basic living expenses. Both must be unmarried, and neither may have had a different domestic partner in the last six months prior to the date of filing. (This last provision does not apply if one's previous partner had passed away.)

To be able to file with the county clerk of San Francisco, one of the partners must work in the city or both must live together in San Francisco. A filing fee of \$35 (\$30 in Berkeley and \$39 in Marin) is required, in exchange for which the couple gets a certificate resembling a marriage license.

Not the same as marriage

Domestic partnership does not have the benefits usually associated with marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California says that "...unless you have a will, your partner won't get your property if you die. A domestic partnership won't make sure that your partner has the legal right to take care of you if you get sick. It doesn't mean that your part-



The first couples to register as domestic partners in San Francisco in 1991: Susan Berry and Martha Cody and Chris Minor and Richard Mullholland.

(Photo: Rick Gerhart)

ner and you have a right to each other's pay or property." ACLU's advice is for domestic partners to execute wills and specific powers of attorney. It suggests consulting a lawyer or refer to self-help books covering gay and lesbian relationships.

A few private companies have moved towards recognizing domestic partnerships in extending health and other benefits to their employees. San Francisco provides a mechanism whereby city and county employees can register for the purpose of extending health benefits to their domestic partners. But the process has come under fire for not going far enough. Last April, Kevin Shelley, member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, called for a hearing on discrimination against domestic partners in health and retirement benefits programs. The proposed hearing has yet to be approved and scheduled by the Board of Supervisors.

According to Shelley, current rules allow married couples 60 days in which to register for city and county health benefits. However, the San Francisco Health Service System rules require newly registered domestic partners to wait until open enrollment before they can register their partners. "This is a question of equity," commented Shelley. "Why shouldn't newly registered domestic partners be eligible under the same rules as legally married couples?" Shelley also lamented the fact that notifications to

city employees regarding the open enrollment period contained no information regarding the benefits open to registered domestic partners.

In as far as retirement benefits are concerned, Shelley called for the establishment of a task force that would write city and state guidelines, in order to allow for registered domestic partners of state employees to receive retirement benefits. Current guidelines prohibit the granting of retirement benefits to domestic partners.

Domestic partners?

While most San Franciscans are generally aware about the existence of a domestic partnership law, many are not familiar with the procedures, actual benefits, and the mechanism for "divorce." San Francisco's domestic partnership law, embodied in Chapter 62 of the Administrative Code, has a provision for ending a domestic partnership. A partnership ends when one of the partners dies, gets married, or sends the other a notice for ending a domestic partnership, and when the partners stop living together. For couples registered with the county clerk's office, there is a form that needs to be filled out when ending a domestic partnership.

"There have been individuals and couples that have filed the notice for ending a domestic partnership," Alfaro says, "but we don't keep a tally." ▼

Correction

In the June 17 issue of the B.A.R., we mistakenly ran the photo at right of Superior Court Judge Alex Saldamando with an obituary for Judge Rand Schraeder. We are happy to report that Judge Saldamando is alive and well and serving on the bench where he has been a longtime friend to the gay community.





Future So Bright ...

One of the many works of art now on display in area bars and restaurants as part of the Shades Project. The sizes and designs vary and must be seen to be appreciated.

The shades will be on display until this Sunday, June 17, at Cocktails, the Lone Star, Borderline, the Watering Hole, Polk Gulch and other venues. All are available for sale. Silent bids are now being taken. All proceeds will go to the AIDS Emergency Fund. For more information, contact the Shades Project at (415) 861-1354.

See Men Changing At S.F. Convention

by Marv. Shaw

Hundreds of men intent on revising and enhancing their masculinity will convene at S.F. State University July 7-11 for plenary sessions and over 60 workshops, the National Organization of Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) has announced. With the theme of "Building Bridges For a Multicultural Men's Community," attendees from all over the United States, plus several from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, will make up the 18th Conference on Men and Masculinity.

With registration and orientation starting on Wednesday, July 7 (4-7 p.m.) and continuing on Thursday, July 8 (1-7 p.m.), the conference will formally open from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday evening. Keynote plenaries will take place on Friday, July 9, from 9-10:30 a.m. and again on Saturday, July 10, at the same hours. The first will concentrate on developing the conference's theme and will feature representative leaders from racial and ethnic communities, while the second will present such creators as Lee Mun Wah, co-founder of the Bay Area Men of Color Conference in 1990. Wah has recently produced *Stolen Ground*, a documentary film that reveals the struggles of Asian-American men against racism.

In keeping with its original policy of pro-feminism, both straight and lesbian women are invited to attend.

True to its longstanding policy of being gay-affirma-

tive, NOMAS is sponsoring a panoply of workshops of particular interest to gay men: "Sex, Dating and Relationships" by Thomas J. Caldarella; "Two Films: 'Bashing' and 'Mike's Film I and II'" by S.F. filmmaker David Lample and moderated by John Gilgun; "Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Trauma" by Hank Estrada; "The Social Utility of Homosexuality: The Role of Male-Male Eroticism in Promoting Unity in Ponorogo, Java" by Walter Williams, the USC anthropologist and author of *Spirit of the Flesh*; and "Effiminity: A Cross-Cultural Exploration" by James M. Bolland.

Intended for attendees of any sexual orientation will be such workshops as "Obstacles to Pornography Discussion" by Robert Brannon and Phyllis B. Frank, "Why the Men's Movement Cannot Face Sex" by Sammy Scott, and "Joys of Outercourse" by Richard Koob.

Among a variety of cultural performances will be Keith Hennessy, directing a cast dramatically exploring violence; songs of nationally famous black songwriter Blackberry, whose work has been performed by Charlie Pride and Barbara Mandrell; San Francisco humorist Charlie Varon (*Honest Prophets*); and country singer Geoff Morgan, presenting his own songs.

For more information, write to NOMAS at 54 Mint Street, Suite 300, San Francisco 94103 or call (415) 546-6627.

The conference will conclude at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 11. ▼

HRCF Honors Two Of Bay Area's Best

by Dennis Conkin

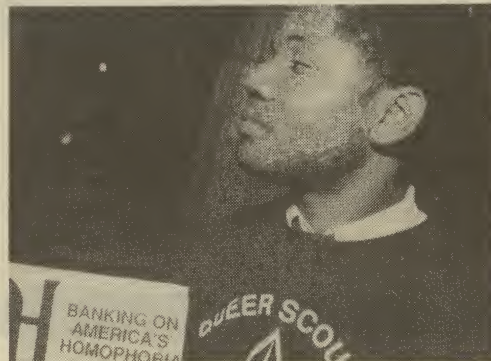
John Woods, one of the co-founders of Queer Scouts, and Wiggys Sivertsen, longtime gay rights activist and professor at San Jose State, will be honored at the 1993 Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner on June 26 at the Fashion Center.

Woods will be awarded the Jerry E. Berg Leadership Award and Sivertsen will receive the James C. Hormel Community Service Award on behalf of the HRCF. Supervisor Carole Migden will present the honors.

Berg was a longtime Democratic Party activist who died of AIDS in 1992. Hormel is a local philanthropist active in gay rights causes.

Woods, who co-founded QS in response to the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay discrimination policy, successfully proposed that the United Way Bay Area defund the group and later, when the Bank of America refused to defund BSA, called for and organized a boycott of the bank.

Woods, a member of the board of directors of Community United Against Violence, has served as a volunteer peer counselor for the past three years at Lavender Youth Recreation and Information, Center, where he has facilitat-



John Woods of Queer Scouts will be honored by HRCF.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

ate to be nice. Sometimes you've got to knock the door down," Woods said.

Sivertsen is the founder of ALGBY, Advocates to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual a regular group for young men of color.

"I was surprised. It's still rare that mainstream organizations recognize the work of street activists, so I think it is an unusual step. For probably three or four years between Queer Nation and ACT UP, that's where a lot of the work has been done. Hopefully, they'll recognize something from our tactics and realize that it's not always appropri-

Youth, has served on the board of Aris Project, a peninsula AIDS service provider, and is a co-founder of Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, a gay and lesbian political action committee in the four-county South Bay.

Speakers for the dinner include Bob Hattoy, associate director of presidential personnel at the White House, civil rights activist David Mixner, and U.S. Naval Reserve Lieutenant Zoe Dunning.

Tickets for the dinner are \$175 — with a limited number available at \$100 for first time dinner attendees. For more information call 252-5677. ▼

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Editorial

Carrying a Two-edged Sword

"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it."

— Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

As we step off the curb, literally and figuratively, to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, it's important to remember that America has once again led the world on a matter of grave importance: civil rights for all citizens. Not that the whole country necessarily wanted it, or wants it, but the history of the world shows again and again that an oppressed minority cannot be held down forever.

We live in a country where such things as Stonewall street riots are possible and time-honored (our revolutionary right), as are ballot measures such as our own domestic partner legislation (our constitutional right). What must not be forgotten, of course, is that the sword cuts both ways, and our enemies may use their rights in the same way we use ours. That explains the current rash of anti-gay ballot measures and the loathsome Jesse Helms's hold on his Senate seat. (We suspect that's the only seat he's held in a very long time, and also that that may be the root of a lot of his problems, but we digress.)

A representational democracy such as ours needs all the input it can get in order to function properly. We note with dismay that while our community is pretty good at the street riots, it has a lot to learn from our enemies about the rest of the political process. The fact is, fundies and bigots are much better than we are about writing elected officials and getting their points of view across. Large, organized letter-writing campaigns are almost *de rigueur* at the more reactionary churches and among those so-called "citizens alliances" that have been formed specifically to take away our rights. Unfortunately, the same is not true among gays and lesbians who want to gain (or not lose) those rights.

A Microcosm

The San Francisco Freedom Day Parade and Celebration is a microcosm of the larger representational democracy of our land: decisions are made regarding the parade that have an impact upon virtually every out lesbian and gay in San Francisco — and yet, very few even bother to take part in that decision-making process.

This year, the committee chose a theme many found distasteful; next year, the decision may be reached to alternate the date of the parade with Los Angeles, despite our parade being so much older and better-established.

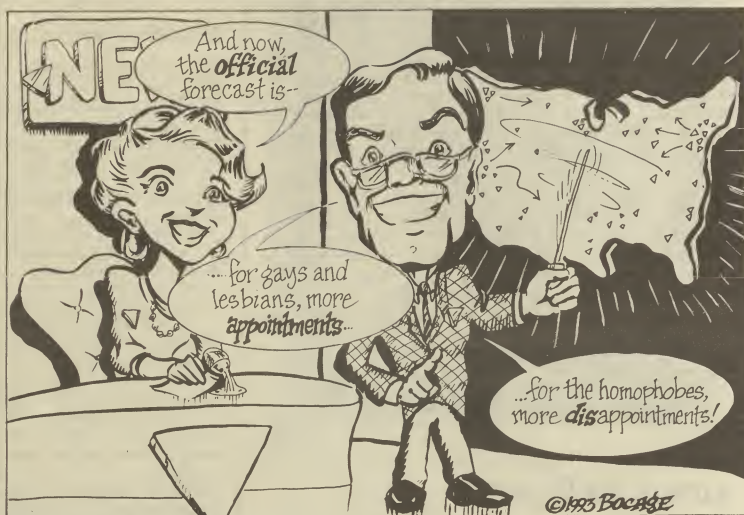
There is a way for people with strong feelings about it to not let others hijack the parade. Get involved. Go to the meetings. Show that Gay Pride is something in which you have a great stake. You might make new friends and you will almost certainly make a difference.

And when you find out how easy it is to make a difference, you might be more inclined to be more involved in America's decisions, too. And that is always a good thing.

Now Get Moving

So rave on: march on, carry on, and — if we may be excused for the pun — write on. This is more than your weekend: it's your country and your parade. Take care of that which is yours before you lose it.

Have a wonderful weekend! ▼



About This Issue

As we at the *Bay Area Reporter* first started planning this year's Gay Pride Issue, we considered the things that have happened since last June. There has been so much gay news — probably more that caught the attention of the mainstream press than at any other time in history — that we scarcely knew where to begin.

Much of that news has been, we must say, not too good. Bigotry is up, anti-gay violence is up, a spate of anti-gay ballot measures are attempting to follow in Amendment 2's terrible footsteps, the Senate hearings on the question of gays in the military have been an exercise in public flagellation, and so on.

However, much that is *good* has come our way this year as well. Perhaps the gains have not always been as public as the bad, but they are there. And, we think, one of the greatest things to have come down the pike is the ever-increasing number of open gays and lesbians who are serving in public office.

It was not so long ago that homosexuality was a political disqualifier, almost without equal. Even the suggestion of "tendencies" could derail the political ambitions of the best and brightest; many potentially great leaders who happened to be lesbian or gay realized that they could forget about serving in office and went off to do other things. For 200 years or so, we lived in an America without positive gay and lesbian role models in public office.

But that has changed. In this issue's second section, a special insert in celebration of this weekend's Gay Pride festivities, we profile some of the openly homosexual role models that exist for today's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender kids.

When we started, we intended to spotlight some prominent gays and lesbians in the arts, and every openly gay or lesbian elected and appointed official from San Francisco to Sacramento (and north and south to varying degrees). To our delight, we found that such an undertaking would have filled all 120 pages of this issue, at least.

Therefore, in this issue, we *begin* to profile our proudly gay public servants. They run the gamut: male, female, white, Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Democrat, Republican, former laborers and former drag queens, lawyers and doctors... well, you get the idea. More profiles will appear weekly in future *B.A.R.s*.

We are, truly, everywhere. And now the next generations of young gays and lesbians will not have to wonder if they can successfully closet themselves enough to pursue a career in politics. Thanks to those who have gone before them, they won't have to be in the closet at all.

We would like to acknowledge that the majority of appointed gays to whom we have spoken so far were appointed by Mayor Frank Jordan. Although he is currently an object of derision in the eyes of many of our readers over the budget problems the city is now experiencing, credit is due where credit is due, and Jordan has come through for us — particularly when one considers how distrusted (a word that is perhaps too mild) he was during his campaign and election.

We're not saying that it's miraculous for a mayor to do good works for the gay community; we are part of the greater population, so that is part of his job. But we are saying that those who would dismiss Jordan out of hand may not have studied his real record, and may be allowing themselves to be manipulated by people with political agendas that we find, frankly, much scarier than the mayor's. Next time someone suggests hurling any object at the public officials who share our day of celebration, ask them what they hope to gain from it. And demand an honest answer. We demand honesty from the mayor, and his detractors deserve no less.

We don't intend to stop keeping a watchful eye on Jordan, or the budget, or his appointments. But for now, we suggest that when readers see him riding by in the parade, they remember he is willing to do what President Clinton was not. ▼

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Letters

Don't Pull the Plug on Shanti

Have you considered what San Francisco's AIDS population would lose if Shanti were to disappear tomorrow? Fully 80 percent of San Francisco's PWAs use one or more of Shanti's services. For openers, last year alone, Shanti clocked an astounding 130,759 hours of practical and emotional support of your loved ones and mine, brought to us by 540 Shanti-trained volunteers. Shanti essentially invented practical and emotional support for PWAs — and no one will pick up laundry, wash dishes, rub backs and feet and listen to the hard facts of dying to the tune of 7,000 hours a month if Shanti isn't there to do it. Professional mental health services are great, but no shrink I know of washes your dishes or puts you on and off the commode.

Shanti has trained literally thousands of volunteers and group facilitators and runs multiple support groups, including groups for PWAs, care givers, women's care givers, grieving groups and groups for heterosexual couples dealing with AIDS.

Of course, all our AIDS service organizations are precious to us, but maybe we forgot who developed the model of support and service back before AIDS had a name or a "diagnostic marker." If you recall back in 1981 and 1982, when the Reagan-Bush-LaRouche guys wanted to put us in "protective quarantine," and funeral homes wouldn't pick up the bodies of our friends and lovers, Shanti mushroomed seemingly overnight from a small agency providing general support to folks with life-threatening illnesses into the equivalent of a major, multi-faceted agency trying to fill in for a government whose policy was to "let the fags die." In doing so, Shanti developed ways to enrich the lives of PWAs, including their incredibly successful Activities Program, which provides tickets to cultural events, holiday meals and celebrations, kayaking trips and so many other opportunities for PWAs to feel like *People With AIDS*. Shanti, in fact, created the gold standard for AIDS support services in our city and its influence is felt nationwide and worldwide.

One vital issue is the continued eligibility to receive federal Ryan-White funding. Among other programs threatened by the loss of such eligibility is Shanti's Crossing Project, which serves PWAs in the Tenderloin. This program serves indigents, women, people of color, Native Americans and children as well as transgender and other PWAs poorly served in the past by mainstream health care.

This is the time to support Shanti, not to stand on the sidelines and smugly watch our own hard-won, grass roots organization go down the drain. As individuals, we need to continue financial and moral support of Shanti. Don't pull the plug on Shanti services. San Francisco needs Shanti and Shanti deserves our support.

Lynne I. Portnoy, M.D., D.C.
San Francisco

Just Begun to Fight

In this "Year of the Queer", let us never forget that the struggle for gay, lesbian and bisexual rights is far from over.

We may be able to produce a million citizens on the Mall in Washington, but it is the right wing who can produce over 30 votes in the U.S. Senate to block a lesbian nomination.

We may occasionally be able to watch a queer-positive film on some public television station, but it is the right wing that owns the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Family Channel which is forced to America every day via cable.

We may have the high moral ground of basic human rights to liberty and equality, but it is the right wing that controls the courts, judges and military without which our rights are meaningless.

While we confront and deal with a catastrophic epidemic that has taken some of our brightest talent, the right wing profits from poisoning the minds of Americans with homophobic lies and hysteria.

In short — our fight for justice has just begun. There will be many Colorados to be faced.

Destiny is on our side. We have our flag, our culture, our history and our heroes. It is now time to ask for our place.

Patrick A. Tifer
San Francisco

BofA Vacation Give-Away!

Please advise your readers of another fun and potentially profitable way to protest the BofA's renegeing on defunding the Boy Scouts.

We can use the alternative method to enter the BofA's vacation give-away contest. Write your name, address and phone number on a 3 x 5 card. Send it to: "Vacations for Life" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 1011, Grand Rapids, MN 55730-1011. While you're at it, write on the back, "Bigotry is not a family value."

Thanks!

Brian M. Gronlund
San Francisco

Dr. Katz Deserves Better

As a long-time patient of Dr. Mitchell Katz, I firmly believe that he is not only an excellent doctor, but moreover, he is the right man to be in the position of Director of the AIDS Office.

It is difficult for me to understand why your newspaper insists that Dr. Katz is doing something "terribly wrong" in having preliminary discussions with AIDS service providers who might be (1) interested in applying for the housing contracts of Shanti Project, and (2) are capable both financially and administratively to handle those contracts. I don't believe for one minute that Dr. Katz could or would persist in any "behind the scenes" jockeying, especially when it comes to the health and welfare of the very people he is committed by profession to serve ... people with AIDS.

On the other hand, as Director of the AIDS Office, he does have the right to "scope out" the terrain, so to speak, by making inquiries, talking with people and doing his homework. I really don't think that if you were placed in the position of someone offering to sell you a house that you wouldn't make inquiries, investigation and have discussions with other homeowners to gain insight? Or would you wait until the last minute before you purchase the house to make inquiries? I don't think you'd opt for the latter because I know you're an intelligent human being.

Obviously, there have been past mistakes made both by Shanti Project and the AIDS Office, and certainly people in the community should be concerned about how, when, where and with whom the housing contracts of Shanti Project get dealt with. But I think there is a way of dealing with these kinds of situations without rendering an "accusatory note."

I am a person living with AIDS. I would like to see more housing for people like myself (I don't live in Shanti House nor am I enrolled in the Shanti Residence Program). I would like to see more low to moderate, decent housing created for all of San Francisco. Most of all, I want a cure! But in the meantime, we don't have to be mean to or with one another. Dr. Katz deserves better treatment than this. And in spite of whatever mistakes Shanti Project made in the past, they still deserve our support!

Kevin Kennedy
San Francisco

Deceiving Appearances

The "News Brief" appearing in your June 3 issue struck me as a crystallization of the danger of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance. In just a few short quotes, the OCA separates itself from extremist organizations. It is simply an alliance of citizens of Oregon who are opposed to perversity.

The appearance of being a reasonable and even humane organization (the behavior, not the person is perverse) is the OCA's most powerful weapon. It is this appearance of rationality that presents a threat to the civil liberties of all Oregonians.

In the news brief, the OCA claimed to be simply misunderstood, citing "mainstream people who may be not good readers and don't think critically" as the possible reason for confusion about their message. But in reality, the OCA depends on the lack of reading or critical thinking skills to assure tolerance of their visibility and passage of their political agenda.

We can rest assured the OCA will never repeat the error of inflammatory language made in Ballot Measure 9. In the future, we can anticipate literature and legislation that will appear to be generated by an informed, educated and rational organization that only wishes to protect society.

Gina Jones
Portland, Oregon

Why Bother Reforming Gay/Straight Republicans?

The efforts by gay and pro-gay straight Republicans to navigate their party out of the cultural Dark Ages ("Gay Republicans Face the Future", B.A.R., June 10) are admirable, but I strongly believe that their talent and energy would be far better utilized in helping to revitalize the Democratic Party. After all, the Democrats are already moving and regrouping in ways these Republicans would admire, becoming less ideologically reflexive, more appreciative of free enterprise and a market economy and much more balanced than before on matters of individual vs. group rights. Meanwhile, back in the Republican Party, the holy rollers are becoming even more deeply entrenched, at all levels of government in all parts of the country, like stones in concrete.

Furthermore, even if the Republican Party were purged of the cultural Gestapo — assuming it can be done at all — what do we have?

We would still have the party that gave us Watergate, Iran-Contra, Iraqgate, the Superfund, H.U.D., Wedtech, Inslaw, BCCI and BNL scandals, Star Wars, the costly and utterly futile war on drugs, Lebanon, Clarence Thomas, the botched invasion of Panama and the \$260 Billion savings and loan disaster. Why bother?

Glenn S. Tasky
San Francisco

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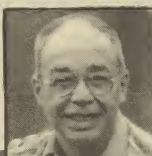
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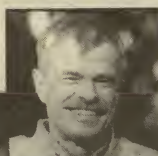


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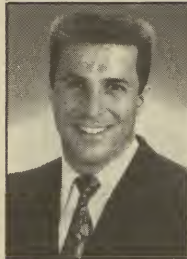


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Letters

Preserving Our Past

Many people in the gay and lesbian community have over the past decade been placed in the unenviable position of trying to decide what to do with the private papers and certain personal effects of friends and lovers after their deaths. Often, families don't want the materials or destroy them out of malice or ignorance of their potential value in documenting our lives during a time of unprecedented change.

I would like to call to the attention of the community the existence of two organizations which are anxious to accept and preserve papers and artifacts that will define clearly to the future who we were when all of us are dead and gone. The Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, P.O. Box 424280, San Francisco, CA 94142, (415) 626-0980 is particularly interested in journals, diaries, letters, photos, magazines, flyers, pamphlets which will help to record the turmoil in our lives since Stonewall certainly, but from any time previous that will lend insight into what it's like to be gay/lesbian/bisexual/transsexual in a nominally straight world.

The Exodus Trust, 1523 Franklin, San Francisco, CA 94109, (415) 928-1133, which already has one of the largest collections of artifacts relating to human sexuality in the world, is interested in a wide variety of materials that illuminate the enormous diversity of human sexuality — fetishes, paraphernalia/toys of all kinds, as well as written materials that would supplement and support these objects. So before you throw what comes your way into the nearest debris box, fireplace or trash can, give a call to either or both of these local organizations. Remember, one person's trash is another's history.

R. H. Wagner
San Francisco

Gay for a Day

In honor of National Gay Pride Month (June) and Gay Pride Week in San Gay for a Day Francisco (June 20 through 27), I invite all heterosexuals who love and support their gay friends to participate in celebrating Gay for a Day 1993.

Here is how it works:

- 1) Purchase a button which says Gay & Proud.
- 2) Choose one day during Gay Pride Week and wear the button all day.
- 3) Watch the chaos/fun ensue. Never a requirement. (Sex is optional of course.)

That's all there is to it. Wear the button to work, wear it at play, wear it to church, wear it to school, wear it at home. If you are feeling especially lively, you might even want to organize a "gay" event. Dinner parties are always popular, invite a few of your best friends who might also want to be Gay for a Day. After dinner there will be laughs galore as you each share your own "coming out" stories.

Wouldn't it be neat if just for one day - everybody was gay? Maybe then, people would stop making such a fuss.

Elaine Manuele
Berkeley

G/L Postal Employees Network

Gay and lesbian employees of the U.S. Postal Service in the Northland District, which includes large areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin, are pleased to inform your readers of the existence of the Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (G/L PEN).

In February 1992, interested gay and lesbian postal employees formed a "steering committee" to discuss guidelines for an organization that would serve the needs of those in the local work force who identify as sexual orientation minorities. Our first general meeting was in March 1992. Since then, we have been meeting monthly.

Membership in the G/L PEN is open to any gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or gay/lesbian sensitive employee. Our mission is: "to serve as an advocate for all sexual minority employees and advance their recognition and legitimacy within the U.S. Postal Service."

While the G/L PEN functions as a support group for those who attend meetings, we are focusing the majority of our effort on effecting change in the work place. To achieve our agenda, we've formed "action teams" to work on various objectives.

The G/L PEN is encouraged by the postal service's recent creation of a Vice President for Cultural Diversity. We believe the time has come for us to receive the recognition and benefits due us. It is our hope that postal employees among your readers will also wish to organize networks. To that end, we offer assistance to those who inquire. We can be reached through P.O. Box 580397, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0397.

Richard E. Evans, Co-Coordinator
Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network
Minneapolis, Minnesota

AIDS Prisoner Needs Our Support

I have never written a letter to the editor, but a fellow human being is suffering at the hands of our federal court and prison systems and I cannot be silent.

Al Ducote is a 35-year old male who has spent most of his life in San Diego County and was recently diagnosed with AIDS.

In 1990, Al was convicted of a minor, first-time drug offense (approximately 65 units of LSD) and sentenced to 70 months in a federal prison. This was eventually corrected to be 37 months of which Al served 16 before being released on bail pending his appeal. During the nearly two years that Al was free, most of his time was dedicated to caring for a friend who was dying of AIDS. Al made certain that his friend's last months were as comfortable and as carefree as possible.

Last month, May 1993, Al was admitted to UCSD Hospital diagnosed as having CMV Retinitis. The standard treatment for this infection is a drug administered intravenously once or twice a day for the remainder of the patient's life. That is the treatment prescribed for Mr. Ducote.

Also in May 1993, Al's appeal from his drug conviction appeared on the San Diego Federal Court's Calendar. Although Al was under a doctor's care and was represented in court by his attorney, Dale Metcalf, the judge demanded he surrender to authorities on Monday morning — ordered on a Thursday afternoon.

Al was not heard from again until three to four weeks later. His family and friends became concerned after two weeks and called the Federal Prison Bureau to find where Al had been sent. He has been incarcerated at the Federal prison medical facility in Springfield, MO. He is hundreds of miles from his family and friends whose support he desperately needs.

Since his return to prison, his condition has worsened. The prison authorities failed to have his medication available for nearly two days and followed by giving him his IV three to four hours apart which made him very ill. The CMV has spread to his other eye and he has been having 103 to 105 degree fevers due to yet undiagnosed ailments.

I find it difficult to believe that the war on drugs will be won by imprisoning a very sick AIDS sufferer for what could be the rest of his life. Al has dutifully served more than one half of his sentence and I see no justice or reason in allowing Al to possibly die in prison.

If you agree that what is happening to Al is cruel and unusual punishment at a huge and unnecessary cost to the American taxpayer, then please take a moment to contact your representatives in Washington, D.C. Al Ducote should be released as soon as possible or, at the very least, brought back to California nearer his family and friends. The representatives in Washington that should be contacted are Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Representative Nancy Pelosi. Thank you sincerely for your time and compassion.

Rick D. Short
San Francisco

Augmenting the Colorado Boycott

In the efforts to sanction passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado, we have overlooked a major product that is the basis of the Colorado Springs economy: the U.S. Air Force Academy. I have written our senators urging them to try to move the Armed Services Committee away from Nunn's queer circus and to examine the efficacy of the USAF (in Iraq and elsewhere).

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy have their own planes and do not trust really important missions to the Air Force. Even a reduction of the Air Force Academy would hurt the Colorado Springs economy and at the same time, save money that is now wasted on duplicate capabilities in the military.

Stephen O. Murray
San Francisco

Is the Mayor Telling Us to Drop Dead?

Do I have to die to balance the budget? The mayor wants to take millions of dollars from my hospital, deny HIV and AIDS care to thousands of "indigent" men, women and children, take from the ill to keep the rich comfortable; he wants to build ball parks, pay larger salaries to aides and look the other way from homeless war veterans and troubled citizens.

It would be genocide to shut down San Francisco General Hospital or even cut overworked, underpaid health providers, our gladiators and saviors — the people who keep us alive!

Mayor, you are telling us to Drop Dead!

Sheldon Ramsdell, PWA
San Francisco

Just Call Me

You can call me queer, gay, lesbian, fag, homo, dyke, sissy, bulldagger or pansy — just never call me straight!

John-Michael Olexy
San Francisco

Jerry Meanderings

Jerry Falwell, again: a reader in Chico called Sunday, enraged at a Jerry Falwell *Old Time Gospel Hour* program that he had watched earlier in the day broadcast on a Redding ABC network outlet. During the course of the show, Falwell blasted the gay and lesbian community in his latest "Sodom and Gomorrah" tirade; in his sermon about the recent March on Washington, he apparently claimed some of the marchers stopped in front of the White House (upon learning that presidential daughter Chelsea was inside the Executive Mansion) and "chanted" for her to come out, supposedly with the purpose of giving some of the lesbians an opportunity to "sodomize" her.

At the end of the show Falwell appealed for funds from his followers, lest he be forced to "discontinue some of the programs." He now promises to send anyone willing to mail in some bucks an anti-gay tape in return. I called the 800 number he promotes in his program and found it to be a telemarketing outfit that no doubt handles several other clients besides *The Old Time Gospel Hour*. I was told, after I was asked which of the advertisements I was interested in, that the "minimum" pledge you could make to receive a tape was \$33, although the program "suggests" a donation of \$100.

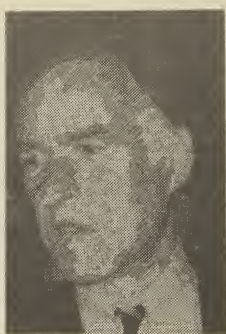
While no one should send in a dime to this raging homophobe I might suggest that everyone take advantage of the 800 number the Reverend offers, to let him know how much we disagree with his savaging our community (and remember, Reverend Falwell pays for the call once it is accepted and someone answers, as long as you inform the person answering that you are calling in regard to the Falwell tape offer). Although ordering the tape is certainly not what I am suggesting, it would run up one hell of a phone bill for the homophobic Falwell, and who knows, it might even get him off the air quite soon.

The Falwell number? Gladly - it's 1-800-845-6006. Remember, when the person answers, be sure to tell him/her that you're calling in response to the anti-gay tapes offered on the Jerry Falwell *Old Time Gospel Hour* and then let that person know that you disapprove of the homophobic bullshit, and before they can ask you your phone number, address, etc., (which they will very quickly do), say goodbye and hang up.

You will have then just made sure that the Reverend Falwell is charged with the call; after all, he is inviting us to call him when he gives out the number on his television program. If enough fair-minded people everywhere were to do this, it would soon be sign-off time for Jerry and his hateful, homophobic *Gospel Hour* and this world would indeed be a better place for all of us. Just a thought.

Politics and People

Jerry Brown, again: there he was last Friday, giving a commencement address at De Anza Community College, sounding all the world like a political candidate again, espousing the same, tired, worn-out propaganda that got him nowhere in last year's



Jerry Brown (Photo: Karen Ocamb)

presidential campaign. Jerry Brown, rabble-rousing at his best, trashing big campaign contributors (who should better know about taking the big political contributions?), television advertising, big government, and the like. Brown, in a warmed-over campaign stump speech, even managed to remind the graduating seniors that Dianne Feinstein, as a candidate for governor a couple of years ago, refused to attend fund-raisers for herself unless guaranteed at least \$50,000 an appearance (that one is really an old line, Jer').

Brown, a self-styled populist, knows no other life other than one of privilege as part of a wealthy family, and is still trying to pass himself as a champion of the poor, etc. Gimme a break, Jerry. Like another sore loser (Ross Perot), Brown has set up his own grass-roots organization, "We, the People," to promote his ideas.

Despite his arrogance, he was a hit with the graduating class, giving his speech entitled "Oligarchy and the Demise of Democratic Politics" (??)

In a recent ruling establishing that lesbians can be "legal-

Commentary

ly recognized parents," the Vermont State Supreme Court recently ruled that a lesbian may adopt the children of her partner without either woman losing her parental rights, overturning a lower judge's ruling that Vermont state law required an adopting couple to be married.

A recent poll says that more than 40 percent of Americans feel that President Clinton is not getting a fair shake from the national press (particularly those headquartered in Washington) and I couldn't agree more; give this guy a break. I mean, he's never claimed to be Franklin Roosevelt or Harry Truman; our community is not going to be completely satisfied with Bill Clinton, but he's like a breath of fresh air after 12 years of the anti-gay Reagan and Bush administrations.

But will Supreme Court designate Ruth Bader Ginsburg as pro-gay as she apparently is pro-woman (or anywhere as near so)? On this, we'll have to wait and see.

For some reason I have never been a political fan of FBI Director William Sessions and only this week he said he would have to be personally asked by President

Clinton before he will step down (even though he technically works for Attorney General Janet Reno, who reportedly wants him out). So ask, Mr. President, ask. Incidentally, for those who might want to meet the FBI chief before he is kicked out, he will be guest speaker at tomorrow's luncheon meeting of the Commonwealth Club at the Hilton Hotel (Friday, June 25; 597-6705 for tix and info).

By taking his relatively unknown candidate for mayor, Richard Riordan, from political obscurity to mayor-elect of L.A., San Francisco's honcho political consultant Clint Reilly is back atop the heap; Reilly, who has as many political enemies as friends here, got a lot of help, though, from a \$12 million bankroll to help his candidate, a Republican.

Supervisor Susan Leal is making points fast with just about everyone who's had any contact with her; she's clearly a good appointment.

Look for Republican Governor Pete Wilson to appoint Supervisor Tom Hsieh to the state Board of Education, possibly right after the first of next month. Hsieh's replacement? I hear Ted Fang does not want the job, but his brother James might.

And on another political family: Jeb Bush, son of former president George, will run for governor of Florida next year while another Bush son, George Jr., will run for governor of Texas.

Gossip columns and wire services were hot last week over the announcement that Nicole Boxer, daughter of the senator, would marry Hillary Rodham Clinton's brother, Anthony Rodham next year (an item that was printed in this column weeks ago).

Bad news: Surgeon General Antonia Novella announced this week that Hispanics make up 17 percent of the nation's AIDS cases and are contracting the disease faster than any other group.

A bright, young political comer? Look for Andrew Clark, an assistant district attorney in Arlo Smith's office, to take the political plunge in a couple of years; Clark, a hometown native, is married to a granddaughter of former Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown — father of the aforementioned Jerry Brown — and is thought to be interested in a congressional seat. (Are you reading this one, Representative Lantos?)

On and on she goes: Elizabeth Taylor's mere presence brought over \$1 million at AmFAR's "Art Against AIDS" benefit in Venice last week, before she was off to yet another dinner where she made an impassioned speech against the disease, along with Dr. Mathilde Krim, where more money was raised to fight the deadly disease; if only we had a hundred more like her.

A letter-writer says about Barry Goldwater's endorsement of gays and lesbians in the military: Buchanan, Nunn, Dole, and Schlafly are the demagogues; "Goldwater is the true conservative. His words should be engraved on the walls of Congress and all 50 statehouses. "Government governs best when it governs least — and stays out of the impossible task of legislating morality."▼

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A Blond Leading the ...

by Dennis Conkin

The hair around my temples is grayer this year than last, and the lines are getting deep and set around my eyes. I've lost a little punch in this, the signal year of my official-over-the-hill-dotage, but as the world-heralded San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration rolls around, there's still something burning in my 40 year-old heart that seems relentless.

Gay liberation, for me, is about the right to love.

Trouble is, I've learned this year that I don't really know much about how to love.

There's been a lot of press the last few years about whether sexual orientation is genetic or a social construction, but I've been wondering lately the same thing about my models for relationship.

Where do they come from? I think I know — and I've been busy for the last year trying to exorcise the straight, white male demons; thank you Aaron Shurin.

I know some of the younger queers would say that I should exorcise the gay, white male demon while I'm at it, but that's another story; one my Native American fa-

ther might have appreciated.

I know that there are those who would say that love's a luxury — and that I'm speaking from a position of privilege because I am HIV-negative, I'm not homeless anymore or unemployed, I am a reasonably skilled writer, and such.

Commentary

And there are others far more educated and equipped to speak to the other burning issues facing our community that are reflected in the news stories I and the rest of the staff serve up to readers every week in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

But love's not a luxury — and neither is hope. They are both central themes in the struggle for gay liberation, a struggle that's finally about the liberation of the entire human race.

God, how terminally, sentimentally, blonde.

We have a right to love and we are making a better world.

I hope Jesse Helms chokes on that.

My own particular vision isn't as mainstream or as centrist as the vision that's pushed as the gay agenda by

groups like the Human Rights Campaign Fund or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or even the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

I don't really get why gay people would want to be in the military, but that's because I was a draft resister during the Vietnam War, but conversely I like most of the gay cops I know — and I also like most of the street activists I know, so it's a real mixed, not very politically correct bag for me, this year.

Live and let live.

And, since I really believe all the stuff I've just said, I've been taking a few baby steps over the last year to clean up a lifetime of mess that's clouded my confused vision — and left me stuck and imprisoned.

I got tested. I realized how deeply angry I was. How scared.

I searched for and found some resources to begin to help me heal the wounds of homophobia; the wounded and abusive rage from a lifetime of psychiatric, institutional anti-gay violence that has been a heavy monkey on my back.

I've made a little progress. And my search for healing has been aided by the contributions of so many people —

from an uncompromisingly honest and loving renegade lesbian minister whose partner will soon bear their expected child — to a weekly support group at MOVE, Men Overcoming Violence — to the special affection of friends (one in particular) and co-workers and colleagues who've seen me through awfully rough times.

We each have our stories — about where we've come from and where we are headed in our pilgrimage from first breath to last gasp for

thought, and my story is no more or less dramatic than anybody else's.

That's my point, I guess.

Gay Pride Week means different things to different people: our cultural expressions and beliefs are diverse, and we all have our challenges and problems, but we come together once a year to mark how far we've come in the struggle for freedom, for the right to love.

And, to celebrate that, I'm learning how to love. Now it's time to dance. ▼

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

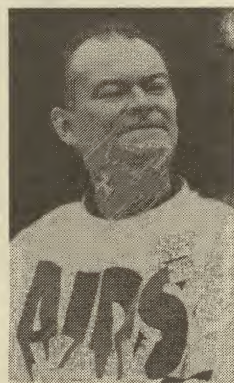
AIDS/SIDA and the AIDS Office of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

And the year's end brought my office together with San Francisco Artspace and Visual AIDS of New York, organizers of the third annual "Night Without Light." Presiding over an official dimming ceremony at City Hall, I joined many of you in observing an international effort to increase awareness of the AIDS crisis. We also arranged for buildings, landmarks and bridges across the city to turn out their lights.

1993 started with another moment of recognition, and a strong example of the power of actions rather than words: The flags over City Hall were lowered to half-mast and five minutes of silence were held to mark the 10,000 deaths from AIDS in San Francisco. Later that month, I did not simply pay lip service to the concern of gays in the military — I addressed President Clinton directly that "the time for lifting the military's ban against gays and lesbians is past due." I followed this up by gathering the City's police chief and the commanders of the local Army and Navy bases to declare that hate crimes will not be tolerated in any manner.

This spring got started with our joint effort to assist lesbian and gay youth in securing \$500,000 to open a lesbian/gay/youth center in the Castro. Later in April, the March on Washington offered a dramatic symbol of the strength of diverse gay communities across the country working together to advance multiple agendas. Although I officially endorsed the march, verbal support of such a major human rights event would not suffice. I made sure my office was represented at the march and directed by aides to lobby the California delegation of behalf of gay issues while they were there.

This past month in Washington, strong words were used not against, but in defense of a specific member of the community. I took action by issuing a direct attack on the intolerance and homophobia of Jesse Helms and other U.S. Senators during Roberta Achtenberg's confirmation hearings, and together we sent the message that all communities must unite to prevent discrimination. Following Roberta Achtenberg's resignation, I respected the need to maintain a lesbian seat on the



Mayor Frank Jordan

Board with my appointment of Susan Leal, a lesbian Latina. I respected the lesbian and gay community's request that the Board of Supervisors mirror the diverse makeup of our city, and that the constituency with whom Susan is associated will continue to have a voice in local government.

June has returned, and the difficult decisions that accompany the budget consume my days. San Francisco faces the worst deficit in its history, but I am committed to maintaining funds to assist the variety of special needs within the lesbian and gay community. I refused to cut any funding from AIDS programs, and have also restored enough money to the health department to guarantee full funding of Ryan White Care. In fact, we will receive \$16 million more in Ryan White Care funding than we originally expected this year, and I am pushing to increase Ryan White AIDS subsidies another \$17 million in 1994-95.

The year has come full circle, and so has the mood of this month. June began with disappointment over necessary budget cutbacks, and ends with elation over the celebration of Gay Pride. During the Gay Parade, members of San Francisco's gay and straight communities will walk for different reasons — but they will walk together for the larger issue of human rights. Realizing that words used to keep us apart will only delay the united effort required to move ahead on gay fronts, I hope that all San Franciscans will embrace the need for diversity. The Parade may end, but may the excitement and exhilaration of this week continue to build momentum and energize our progress throughout the next year. ▼

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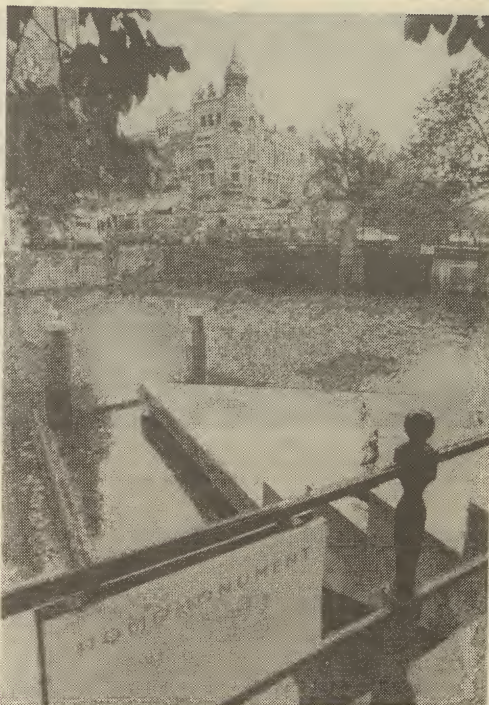
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The Outer Limit



One of three triangles included in Amsterdam's Homomonument, a memorial to victims of homophobia. (Photo: Rick Gerhartner)

Amsterdamn Lesbian

by Rachel Pepper

Bicycle terrorism: that was my initial impression of Amsterdam, when, emerging from Central Station, bags in hand, I almost got run over by a herd of black bicycles. Bells clanging, they swept past me and every other tourist who

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dared step off the curb into their lane without looking. As I stepped back up onto the safety of the sidewalk, I realized the irony of being a motorcycle-driving dyke scared off the street by a couple of straight girls on bikes.

"Welcome to Amsterdam," said my friend Rapid with a smile.

Of course, within a few days I'd adjusted to looking both ways for bikes before I crossed the street. And soon enough, the racks of identical single speed black bikes you see everywhere looked not sinister but familiar, an everyday fact of life in Holland. As the country is so flat, people cycle places rather than drive, and they manage quite well without the fancy 21-speed mountain bikes we West Coasters pay big money for, only to lose them to theft several months later. Of course, dykes on bikes takes on quite a different meaning in Amsterdam than it does in SF, so getting a backseat sidesaddle ride about town from Rapid let me know our friendship was sealed.

Besides bicycling, the other way to get around town cheaply is to walk. Which I did, sometimes for up to five hours a day, up and down the canals, usually getting completely lost. Those miles added up, and even though I stopped every afternoon for lunch and the compulsory dai-

ly consumption of Cappuccino and applecake, by the end of the week I'd lost three pounds.

Coming as it did at the very end of my seven-week journey, it was hard for me to play tourist in Amsterdam. I guess I was almost all sight-seed out, and there are only so many museums you can go to before you just can't look at another painting. Since I'd already done New York's Met, Guggenheim and Whitney, London's National Gallery, the Museum of London, and the Tate, I didn't feel too badly about missing Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. I did go to the World Press Photo show, the Van Gogh Museum, and the home of Anne Frank, where I stood teary-eyed in the tiny bedroom in which she wrote her now famous diary. Needless to say, a pilgrimage to the Homomonument, really just a large triangular slab of pinkish marble by the water, was both mandatory and moving.

Still, what I enjoyed most about Amsterdam were the cafes. Many are located right at the edge of the canals so you can sit, sip, and watch the boats go by. Most of these boats are tours like the "Canal Bus" which stop at some of the city's main sites. Others are some of Amsterdam's 2500 houseboats, although most of these are permanently anchored at water's edge. They're a tradition here, as are the brightly painted squats, the Red Light District filled with sex shops, and the "coffeeshops" from which you buy pot and hash from "menus." Personally, I recommend "Skunk," the local home-grown.

Although I loved Amsterdam, I suspect part of its attraction for me was how much it reminded me of

(Continued on page 15)

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Community News



Keith Meinhold presents San Francisco Police Chief Anthony Ribera with an American flag in appreciation of Ribera's support for lifting the military ban on gays. (Photo: Judi Parks)

Gay Military Leaders Tell Clinton: You Can't Ban Us

By Judi Parks

Hundreds of lesbian and gay former military personnel and their supporters rallied at the Herbst Theatre last week to let Bill Clinton know the community will hold him accountable to keep his promise to lift the ban on gays in the military.

The rally, billed as "You Can't Ban Us," was led by a "who's who" list of gay military leaders from around the United States, plus one man, Robert Farley, who is now famous for not being gay—because he was kicked out of the military after his drill instructor suspected he was.

Farley was joined on stage by his wife, Shirley, as he talked to the audience about the unfairness of the ban and the effects it has had on his life since he was discharged as a suspected homosexual.

The list of speakers included Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, whose U.S. Navy discharge was overturned by a Federal District Court of Appeals; Naval Reserve Lieu-

tenant Zoe Dunning, who was discharged last week despite the Meinhold ruling; former Army Soldier of the Year, Sergeant Joe Zuniga, a highly decorated hero; and Farley.

The serious crowd that came to deliver a strong message to President Clinton screamed and cheered when Dunning, dressed in a tank top and blue jeans, made a fist and flashed a bicep pose, surprising everyone. She quipped about her discharge, "The good thing about it is I won't have to wear 100 percent polyester any more."

On a more serious note, lesbian Supervisors Carole Migden and Susan Leal, and attorney Jeffrey Gibson, West Coast coordinator of The Campaign for Military Service, added their voices to the message that the gay community will not stand back "without massive acts of civil disobedience." Gibson told the audience that if Clinton does not keep his promise to lift the ban, it will "haunt him the rest of his political life."

The program also included

a number of slick video spots featuring bios of prominent gay former military personnel who discuss their military service and the importance of lifting the ban.

Keith Meinhold presented San Francisco Police Chief Anthony Ribera with an American flag to symbolize his support. The biggest applause of the evening came when Ribera told the crowd about his testimony to the House Armed Services Committee and his communications to General Colin Powell, describing his experience with lesbians and gays in the police department, urging him to overcome his opposition.

Ribera received a standing ovation from the foot-stomping, cheering crowd when he said, "The gay and lesbian officers have been loyal to me and made me look good and I think I should be loyal to them. If [lifting the ban] is the right thing to do and I hope Washington realizes that!" ▼

Fight Breaks Out Between Shopkeeper and Lesbians

by Dennis Conkin

The Marin County District attorney has charged Ghazi Haddad, the owner of a Sausalito tackle and convenience store called the Bait Shop, with battery after a June 6 incident involving two lesbian physicians.

Haddad was charged after an incident involving Judith Rubin and Eulee Yang after a dispute that grew into a verbal and physical brawl.

According to news accounts and a petition circulated by Spectrum, the Center for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns, Rubin, who was making a purchase at the store, was alerted by her partner Yang that there was a fire in their car — and that Haddad told the couple that they couldn't borrow a fire extinguisher.

"A verbal argument then ensued," according to the petition, "and the storekeeper yelled, 'Get the fuck out of

my store, cunt.'" As Judith ran out of the store, the flyer alleges, "She flailed her right arm, and knocked several pieces of bubble gum out of a small bucket on the counter."

Haddad then allegedly followed Rubin out of the store and punched her in the back of the head with a full swing.

While Rubin was on the ground, Haddad is accused of kicking her five or six times and shouting, "Go Get your dildo, you fucking dyke. Why don't you go suck some pussy."

The Sonoma County couple aren't the first to be harassed by the "hot headed" storekeeper," said Dionn Besse, but the incident was not classified as a hate crime.

"Haddad has a reputation for being a jerk and this isn't the first customer he's had a negative life experience with," Besse told the Bay Area Reporter.

But Besse said that although a battery has been

charged, the June 6 incident was more of a "mutual combat situation involving the lesbian couple and the homophobic storekeeper."

"All parties involved were calling each other names" by the time that Rubin was assaulted, Besse said.

Rubin and Yang had no basis for a hate crime, Besse said.

Police couldn't arrest Haddad on the spot because they did not see the crime and interviewed witnesses who said that all parties were culpable, he said.

"The ladies decided that because of some of the names he called them that he hated them. There's no basis to argue that he hated them, but he certainly didn't like them, I can assure you of that," Besse said.

Felony battery is a crime punishable by at least two years in state prison upon conviction. ▼

New 'Lift the Ban' Ad Campaign Begun

by Karen Ocam

An estimated \$140,000 was raised at a June 18 Hollywood event to benefit the Campaign for Military Service Education Fund, the Washington DC-based lesbian and gay organization that is fighting to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military.

The money will go to buy air time for two anti-discrimination commercials on television stations in several key states where Senators are undecided on the ban. One commercial focuses on the story of Army Sp4 (Sergeant) Jose Zuniga, the 1992 Sixth U.S. Army Soldier of the Year, who won a combat medal for heroism as a medic during the Persian Gulf War and was honorably discharged from the Army last May after he came out. It ends with the CMS theme: "Soldier. Patriot. Gay American."

The other commercial shows the Vietnam War Memorial and the name of Donald Winn, who was among a number of gays who died during the protracted war. "Should their names be erased from this Wall?" the narrator asks?

As of June 17, CMS advisor David Mixner told the crowd of about 300 gathered at the Raleigh Studios in Hollywood that while the Senate has the power to override the order and to write legislation codifying the ban, votes from only five more Senators are needed to sustain President Clinton's executive order.

The recent endorsements from conservative Republican Barry Goldwater, and Vietnam medal winners Senator Bob Kerry (D-Nebraska), Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) and Senator Charles Robb (D-Virginia) for an unconditional lifting of the ban have breathed new life into the campaign, Mixner said. Many lesbians and gays perceived the campaign to be critically wounded after open-

ly gay Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) offered a military compromise that some deemed to be just a shade better than Georgia Democratic Senator Sam Nunn's "Don't ask, don't tell" proposal. Both compromises would permit lesbians and gays in the military as long as their sexual orientation is not disclosed or uncovered.

The guests seemed moved by the commercials and the extemporaneous speeches delivered by Zuniga, former Army Reservist Colonel Margaret Cammermeyer, Navy Lieutenants Tracy Thorne and Zoe Dunning, and Navy petty Officer Keith Meinhold. Other lesbian and gay former military personnel were present as well, including Air Force Reservist Major Denny Maust who — unlike the others — has not been moved to inactive duty with suspended pay. Yet.

Some humor also punctuated the evening. Attorney Roberta Bennett, who with her partner Diane Abbott were among the event's hosts, told how years ago she and Abbott had been concerned about keeping their then-draft age children out of the military. Now, they say, they're concerned about their possibly gay five-year-old grandson getting in.

Dunning, who is appealing a June 10 recommendation for separation, noted with underscored, amused irony that the controversy surrounding gays in the military spotlighted men in showers. She repeated the current joke among her friends at Alameda Navy Aviation Depot: "Lesbians must be getting dry cleaned!"

All the speakers emphasized that the possibility for an unconditional lifting of the ban is real, but money to air the commercials and battle the far right's anti-gay propaganda war is still urgently needed.

In the meantime, the National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force (NGLTF) has sent out a Lift the Ban Action Kit with instructions on how to help lift the ban. Additionally, NGLTF is calling for a national Mobilization Against the Ban — "in the tradition of the mobilization against AIDS and the Vietnam War" — on July 4th at Lafayette Park across from the White House. The gathering would be a "kick off action" for a series of events targeting Clinton and Congress.

The battle is not over on July 15, when Clinton is expected to issue his executive order. "If the Clinton Administration's recommendations are contrary to Senator Nunn's proposals, we expect an anti-gay amendment by Nunn to the Senate's DoD (Department of Defense) Authorization bill that will be voted on before the August congressional recess," the NGLTF report states. "We also expect a challenge by Senator Dan Coats (R-Indiana), the Senate leader against gays in the military," says the NGLTF report.

There is also some speculation that California Representative Bob Dornan will offer an anti-gay amendment to codify the ban when the House considers the DoD Authorization bill this week. If the issue is not settled in July, there may be further congressional consideration during DoD Authorization bill discussions in September and October.

CMS and NGLTF urgently request that lesbians and gays immediately tell their elected representatives, "Freedom can't be compromised! Compromised Freedom is NO freedom at all!"

For more information or to help the CMS effort to air commercials in targeted states, call: (202) 265-6666. For the NGLTF Lift the Ban Action Kit or more information on the July 4th Mobilization, call Tanya Domi at (202) 332-6483, extension 3308. ▼

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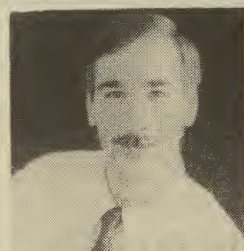


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BAY AREA REPORTER JUNE 24, 1993 PAGE 13

What Does 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Mean? GOPs Wonder, Too

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Senator Dan Coats (R-Indiana), has sent a letter to Defense Secretary Les Aspin cautioning him about the phrasing of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise now being considered for lesbians and gays in the military.

Coats, a veteran and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in his letter to Aspin that the phrasing of the policy raises a number of questions.

"I wrote Les Aspin because it is vital to the future of our military and the security of our country that some very significant questions be answered before a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy is consid-

ered," Coats said.

In a speech before the Senate, which was included in the correspondence to Aspin, Coats raised several issues about the compromise proposals. They include:

"What does 'don't ask' mean? I think the answer is by no means obvious.

"Does 'don't ask' just apply to recruiters or the process which a new recruit goes through before he enters the military? How about a doctor? Does a doctor who discovers that a patient is a homosexual report that to his commander?"

"How about security clearance investigators? How about military commanders concerned about the morale and effectiveness of their units?"

How is a commander to deal with a serviceman who attends a gay church or a gay bar, marches in a gay parade or reads gay material on base?"

"What if another soldier on base reports that he has witnessed homosexual conduct? Can a commander pursue an investigation based on this alone?"

"With a new definition of 'telling,' will the Department of Defense be caught up in litigation?"

Coats's concerns, while voiced by a conservative who has shown his hostility to lesbians and gays in the past, shows that he shares their concerns, when it comes to the military ban issue. ▼

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California News



Mark Forston

Mark Forston, Fresno Gay Hacker, Sentenced to Six Years

by Karen Ocam

"I consider this to be an incredible miscarriage of justice," said computer expert Robert Murray, referring to a six-year, four-month sentence handed down to Fresno computer buff Mark Forston on Monday, June 21.

As previously reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Forston was tried on charges of sodomy of a minor and attempted child molestation — the latter charge based on allegations Forston "sent" pornographic pictures on a computer bulletin board. Despite the impossibility of forcibly transmitting anything through such a device — and serious credibility problems on the part of the minor in question — the Fresno jury returned a guilty verdict on May 17 that will put Forston behind bars almost until the end of the millennium.

Murray, a heterosexual, served as the pro bono chief investigator for Forston's public defender and helped bring in experts and witnesses who undermined the prosecution's case. It is his contention that the guilty verdict was based on facts other than those presented by the prosecution, a feeling shared by many courtroom observers.

"That jury just looked at Merlin [Mark's given name] and said 'He's queer. Let's hang his ass.' As God is my witness, they didn't listen to any of the damn testimony," said Forston's older brother Jim, 55, in a June 21 interview, just hours after the sentencing. "I feel the gay community let my brother down. These guys ran scared like a bunch of jack rabbits and now they're going to pay for it. If they run a gay computer bulletin board and he finds any dirty pictures, this man'll get them. It's open season on gays and they just gave him a hunting license."

The "him" is Detective Frank Clark, a Christian fundamentalist Fresno Police officer who — with the help of pervasive homophobia, irresponsible journalists, and frenzied, mistake-prone public defenders — used the accusation of an 19-year old gay with a history of drug use to "prove" that Forston lured

boys to his bulletin board (BBS) for illicit sexual purposes.

When the B.A.R. first launched its own investigation into the computer/sodomy charges in April of 1992, Forston was screaming his innocence and charging police entrapment, invasion of his computer privacy, improper search and seizure, and religious zealotry. He also swore that the young man, whom he had never met, was lying and seeking revenge for being kicked off the bbs two years earlier.

The problem — no one would listen. Forston, a wall-paper hanger who lived with and took care of his 93-year-old mother and invalid brother, was too poor to hire a criminal lawyer, experts to assist in the investigation, or a public relations firm to counter the barrage of damaging publicity generated daily by the police and a ratings-hungry media.

And besides, he was an older gay man with an invisible social life. Maybe, mused some gays in Fresno and San Francisco, the charges were true. Ironically, the friends who have stuck by Forston throughout the whole ordeal have been his family and his heterosexual friends from the gay, lesbian, bisexual computer bulletin board system (BBS) he operated for three and a half years. A few gays friends helped for a while, but when it appeared the Fresno police would win, they essentially went into hiding.

A history of the case

The story began in March of 1992, when Detective Clark initiated an investigation of Forston upon receiving a "complaint" about a pedophile in Fresno. The complaint later turned out to be from a county security guard/police informant/computer buff — who, ironically, was later indicted for stealing county computers. He was an unimpeached prosecution witness at the trial.

Clark, who identified himself as a computer expert to the media, claimed he had signed on Forston's Designer

BBS as a 15-year-old, and was given access to gay pornographic pictures that Forston "sent" him over the wire. Forston had been alerted to "something strange" happening on his BBS by a lesbian member, but he thought it was sabotage from a local fundamentalist computer rival.

When Forston was arrested on March 14, Clark and his partner Joel Popejoy began what would be a series of news conferences touting Forston's arrest as a pedophile and child molester. The television media had a field day, using computer-generated heterosexual Penthouse-type pictures to illustrate the "raw sex" allegedly available and used as an enticement to minors on Forston's BBS.

Ten days after Forston's arrest (but before he was assigned a public defender) Clark spoke as a self-described "servant of Jesus Christ" before an Assembly of God congregation about the evils of computer bulletin boards — the "pool halls" of this generation. He also talked specifically about Forston's case.

"The investigation ensued and we wound up talking to a man who was arrested — Mark Forston — and he sent pornographic pictures of young men having sex with young men to me thinking I was 15 years of age," Clark said on a videotape seen by this reporter. "And then he tried to seduce me and he met me for the purpose of having a sexual date. And instead he went to jail."

Clark also relayed how the congregation's pastor had assured him that "The Lord has prepared you for such a time as this" — and would not let him get sucked back into his own previous problem of a "desire to look at pornography." He also indicated that his department had initially tried to stop the investigation because, Clark said, "the homosexuals are going to sue us."

Finally, Clark summed up his lecture/sermon, "This is

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

spiritual warfare. ... Mark Forston and other people like him are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy." He asked to be God's "ambassador on this earth."

The tape was never admitted into evidence at the trial but it so irritated Forston that he initiated a \$2.5 million slander suit against the city — which, case-watchers believe, is why the city spared no expense to go after him. If he was proved guilty of the felony charges, the slander suit would be moot.

Incidentally, Forston had never met Clark as alleged.

About a month after the massive publicity given Forston's arrest and initial court hearings, an 18-year-old boy came forward, claiming to have been raped by Forston when the boy was 16. A local news station repeatedly pressed the story with a series of "exclusive" interviews with the boy — photographed in shadow — and his mother.

In the interviews the boy said he went to Forston's home to learn about "manhood" and to help the 49-year-old computer buff fix his computer. Then, the boy told reporter Brian Glaser, Forston "locked the door," talked about Satan, and threatened to kill him before he raped him. He had since been suicidal. The boy's mother called Forston a "deranged monster."

Only as an apparent afterthought did Glaser mention that the 93-year-old mother said there were no locks on Forston's bedroom door and that there never had been any unaccompanied teenage boys to their house. Glaser was later arrested for growing marijuana in his apartment and left the state.

Forston went through two public defenders, having problems with each. Neither asked for a change of venue, for instance, although his case had received more publicity than local murders of teenage boys. Neither seemed to understand the nature of computers either — that it is impossible for the computer system operator to "send" any material. The receiver on a computer modem must initiate a series of actions to "download" a file. Additionally, the "X-rated" material Forston had on his BBS was invisible to anyone who was

not a private member with a specific access code.

But during the trial, Murray's experts explained all this and suggested that Clark may have tampered with the computer evidence. Clark presented cleaned up, speaker-identified computer printouts of what he said he "captured" off-screen during his computer conversations with Forston. The original "captured" screen would not have the speakers identified. Additionally, Clark admitted that he used a computer expert and a word processor program to break into and decipher Forston's computer files.

During the B.A.R.'s investigation, a number of people were interviewed who seriously damaged the young accuser's credibility and told of direct experience with him, both sexually and as a drug user/dealer. None of these people were called to testify on Forston's behalf. None of the people the B.A.R. found whose children used Forston's BBS were called to testify about Forston's character and computer ethics. And much of the testimony of a psychiatrist who relayed the young man's poly-substance abuse and sexual history was not admitted into evidence as being "too prejudicial."

The prosecution, on the other hand, flew in "computer experts" from Pennsylvania — whose testimony was discredited by Murray's experts. But, said Murray, "basically the jury didn't believe our experts because our experts weren't law enforcement."

Other experts and witnesses also "mis-testified" said Murray. Others, including the boy's mother — whose testimony was initially undermined — were allowed to come back and change or "rehabilitate" their testimony. This destroyed the critical element of "reasonable doubt" in jurors' minds, Murray believes. They apparently opted to believe the testimony of law enforcement, the boy, and his mother over that of confusing computer experts and a gay man.

Forston plans to file an appeal. There is some question about whether or not Forston will have to pay his teenage accuser \$10,000 in emotional damages. Forston's mother says she doesn't think she'll be alive to see her son free again. Meanwhile, Mark Forston sits in prison, still protesting his innocence. ▼

Pepper

(Continued from page 11)

home. Ironically, once I realized this, I couldn't wait to leave. So despite my enjoyment of the city's markets and cafes, its queer bookstores, its women-only bar, Cafe Saarein, and De Trut, the squatters club where Rapid and her boy pal Fajo tossed each other around the dance floor, I realized that I'd have to come back another time to truly appreciate it.

After all, seven weeks without your own bed and the sexy girl who shares it with you is a long time. Being away from San Fran all that while apparently freed me to love it again, and what better time to come back home than June? The weather's perfect, the days are long, and the high holy gay days are upon us. There's enough queer

pride in the air to make even the most hardened local cynics smile, even if it's just to smirk at all the tourists descending in droves for our much debated little Year of the Queer.

So I've been savoring San Francisco again, from that first latte at Cafe Flore to the last bite of tofu in tomato sauce at Tulan's, I've played the violin at the "wedding" of two dyke friends, sat in the sun at Delores Park, and stood on the corner of Castro and Market on the film fest's opening night as spotlights sliced the sky and the roar from a dozen dykes on bikes made my heart race. The community here may be flawed by infighting and the isms, but it's still the best place in the country to be queer.

Happy Queer Pride Day, San Francisco, and I'll see you all at the Parade! ▼

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Photo: Steven Baratz

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Open Gay Seeks State Assembly Seat

By Karen Ocamb

John Laird, the former mayor of Santa Cruz, wants to become the first openly gay member of the California Assembly. The 27th Assembly District seat was made available by the appointment of Monterey Assemblymember Sam Farr to fill out former U.S. Congressman Leon Panetta's term. The special election primary is scheduled for August 31 with the run-off in November.

Laird, 43, has gotten high marks from both liberals and conservatives during his 12 years on the Santa Cruz City Council - two terms as mayor - and has already raised \$40,000 and has received 1,700 local endorsements since his announcement June 10.

Laird has always been interested in politics, he said in an interview during a brief visit to Los Angeles recently. In fact he majored in politics at USC/Santa Cruz, graduating with honors in 1972. He immediately went to work for his Congressman, Jerry Waldie, leaving two years later to work as an assistant to

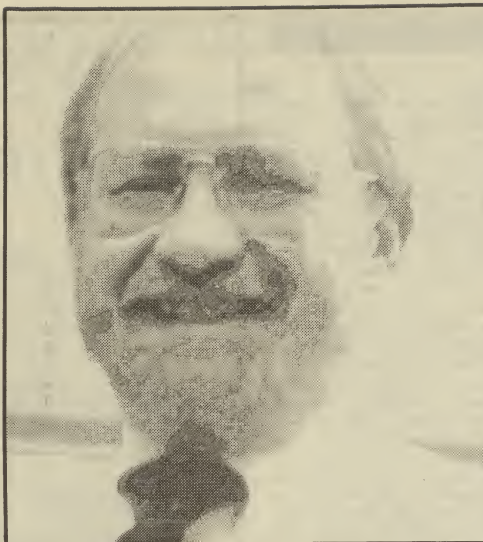
the local county administrator where he served until his election to the Santa Cruz City Council in 1981.

In 1981 and again in 1985 Laird was the top vote getter and fundraiser in the progressive Pacific coastal region 75 miles from San Francisco. The city council elected him mayor in 1984 and 1988. Terms limits prohibited Laird from running for a third term.

Since 1990 Laird has been the executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project which he founded in 1985 when Santa Cruz had only five people diagnosed as HIV-positive. As of June 4, the agency administered to 170 clients.

"I was always out," Laird said, "it was always known, though it was never discussed in casual conversation." But when a reporter asked him bluntly in 1983 if he was gay and Laird responded, "Well, of course" - he made headlines as the second openly gay mayor in the country.

"I even made the Paul Harvey (nationally syndicated radio) show," Laird said with a



John Laird

(Photo: Dell Richards)

smile. "He said, 'You won't believe what they're doing out in Santa Cruz, California.' It was unique. There were not more than 10 or 11 openly gay political officials at the time." He was elected mayor unanimously by the city council's liberals and conservatives despite the headlines.

Laird attributes his election in 1983 and again in 1985 to the fact that he earned the respect of his colleagues and the voters. "I worked hard to

form coalitions and to be the best damn mayor the council and the voters had seen," Laird said. "I wasn't going to leave an opening for homophobia to take hold."

The voters were not concerned about his sexual orientation but his work on the issues, Laird said, especially environmental issues such as protecting the coastline from off-shore drilling and stretching the boundaries of the Monterey Bay Area for a ma-

rine-life sanctuary. Laird also pushed for strong social services. And as head of the county's transit system, he initiated a domestic partnership program for county transit employees. He also earned high marks for leadership in that capacity when the Loma Prieta earthquake hit in 1989.

Because of his pro-active track record as a 20-year member of the State Democratic Committee in a heavily Democratic district, president of the regional council of governments, and serving on the water planning board, the redevelopment agency, and the senior citizen council, Laird thinks he has a pretty good chance of winning in the crowded primary.

"Let's just say I'd rather be me than any other candidate in the race," he said with a chuckle. But he is also aware that running to become the first openly gay in the California Legislature means he will draw the attention and well-funded opposition of far right extremists. He is hoping that the endorsement and funding by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and other groups will help put him over the top and into the seat.

For more information on Laird's campaign, call (408) 454-9244 or send contributions to Friends of John Laird 1214 King St., Santa Cruz, CA. 95060. ▼

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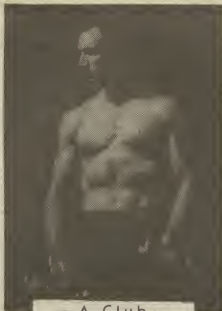
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Band in San Francisco: Musicians Celebrate 15th Anniversary

by Dennis Conkin

When the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band struts down Market Street during this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, the group won't just be adding a campy flair to the celebration - it will be marking its 15th anniversary.

The first openly lesbian and gay musical organization in the world, the group's presence in the parade caps a busy year that included its participation in a performance at the Inauguration of President Clinton in January by the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, a 24-city group, according to Doug Litwin, a spokesperson for the 40-member group.

"It's been a very busy year. Twenty of us were in Washington for the Inauguration. We sent more people than any other group, and we were in Washington in April for the March on Washington," Litwin told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Founded in 1978 by Jon Sims, at the height of Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade, more than 60 people responded to notices posted on Castro Street telephone poles and in gay newspapers for musicians to march as a sort of a festive honor guard in front of Harvey Milk's car, when he rode in the 1978 parade as the first openly gay elected official in the country.

The group was originally known as the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps.

As part of its celebration, Litwin said, the band will



Nancy Corporon and Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band members. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

take part in the 15th annual Gay Pride Concert at Herbst Theatre on June 25. The concert features music groups that trace their roots back to Jon Sims, including the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, Winds of Freedom, and the Rhythm Method.

"The Gay Pride concert hearkens back to the days when Jon Sims would rustle flutists and flag bearers, tap dancers and tenors, and slap together a musical extravaganza that was amazing," said Nancy Corporon, the group's artist director.

"Jon envisioned a musical empire built of the gay community's hidden talents - hidden whether we're in the closet as gays or performers. And the Gay Pride Concert will be a celebration of that vision."

For ticket information contact City Box Office at 392-4400. ▼

SoCal Lawsuits: One Settled, One Filed, One Lost

by Karen Ocamb

On June 16, the Los Angeles City Attorney's office announced the settlement of a lawsuit filed March 6, 1992, by four men who say they were refused dental treatment because of their HIV status at clinics operated by Western Dental Services.

Their suit was joined by AIDS Project Los Angeles, the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, and — later — by City Attorney James Hahn, who accused Western Dental of illegal and unfair business practices that violated the city's anti-AIDS discrimination ordinance, the state Unruh Act.

The settlement requires Western Dental to implement a comprehensive employee training program under a new written policy that prohibits discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients. The new training policy applies to current and future employees at all levels.

But while the Western Dental settlement augurs well for HIV/AIDS education and policy in one medical arena, alleged discrimination still goes on in another.

Matthew R. Bender is suing a paramedic school for allegedly forcing him out of their training program after learning he was HIV-positive. Bender charges that the school and medical director at the Associated Technical College told the highly regarded student that he would not be allowed to graduate, nor would he be certified as an Emergency Medical Technician because of his HIV status.

Prior to notifying his school administrator and the medical director that he had learned he was HIV-positive, Bender had so impressed his instructors with his CPR abilities that they had asked him to become a CPR student-instructor. After he discovered and disclosed his status, the school officials told him bluntly they would not allow him to use the equipment necessary for him to complete his training.

On June 2, AIDS Project Los Angeles and the ACLU filed suit on Bender's behalf, alleging that school officials violated the federal Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, among other federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, says his ACLU attorney Alan Friel, the school officials violated the trust inherent in the teacher-student relationship when they refused Bender the non-judgmental counseling he expected.

In yet another Southern California legal case — this time a clear loss for gay rights — Riverside Superior Court Judge Robert K. Garst threw out a lawsuit filed by a gay man who alleged discrimination in the workplace.

Bob Hanson, a gay rights activist and former supervisor at Home Savings in Riverside, alleged that his subordinates at the bank were offended when Hanson mentioned his boyfriend and his

gay civil rights political work. One employee allegedly told Hanson that his sexual orientation was "an abomination of God," and another allegedly said it made her sick. When Hanson complained, his manager sided with the other employees.

After months of abuse, Hanson resigned and filed suit on May 22, 1992, charging Home Savings with violating the California law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace. The judge dismissed the case on May 21, 1993 — almost exactly one year later — ruling that Hanson was seeking "special rights," according to a press release issued May 21, 1993 by Hanson's attorney, Leroy S. Walker. Walker said he will file an appeal. ▼

Black Gays and Lesbians Plan Political Rally in LA

by Karen Ocamb

What started off as basically a Malibu beach party five years ago has become the annual Fourth of July weekend place to be for thousands of African-American lesbians and gays from around the world. Called At the Beach, the Malibu party is actually part of a national network of summer events for black lesbians and gays.

This year, however, more politically-oriented African-American homosexuals are hoping to use the event as a way to rally those gays who've been left out of the mainstream lesbian and gay civil rights movement. They have organized a Before the Beach Empowerment rally at Holman United Methodist Church, one of the very few black churches that accept open lesbians and gays.

"The inspiration for the Empowerment Rally came from the realization that the

L.A. Coalition for Military Service and some other organizations have not been able to do outreach in a broad way to communities of color," says ACLU/SoCal Community Outreach Coordinator Kevin Spears.

Most of the political rallies and town hall-type meetings are held in West Hollywood, he notes, which is viewed by some homosexual African Americans as not being accessible or race-friendly.

Additionally, Spears says, African-American lesbians and gays must come to grips with coming out in their own communities as more and more churches side with religious right-wing extremists like the Reverend Lou Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition.

"The level of homophobia is increasing in African-American churches from our pulpits," says Spears, noting that sermons preaching that homosexuals are condemned to

eternal Hell are increasingly being aired on local black radio stations. Additionally, he believes, hip hop music has encouraged young students to embrace the idea that "homosexuality is detrimental to the growth and continuation of the African-American family."

Spears hopes the Before the Beach Empowerment Rally will get together African-Americans, gays and lesbians to proclaim a collective affirmation and capture our liberation as free and powerful people in the African-American community."

The rally, scheduled for July 2 at Holman United Methodist Church, will feature music, speakers — including the Reverend James Lawson, and a town hall panel discussion. For more information, call the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum at (213) 964-7820. ▼

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National News

A Gay Book for Straight Folks

by David O'Connor

The grateful lesbian greeted author Eric Marcus with open arms, hugs, and kisses.

She was escorting him around Portland, Oregon, as part of a national tour promoting his latest book, *Is It A Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gays and Lesbians*.

She was thankful for that book.

"She had been out for several years but she said this was just the kind of book she had been looking for to give to friends and relatives to help them understand," Marcus recounted.

Just released from Harper San Francisco, *Is It A Choice?* is full of up-to-the-minute information on lesbians and gays, including questions and answers regarding the military ban controversy. But the book goes beyond current headlines to tackle wide ranging subjects

such as coming out, dating and relationships, religion, discrimination and anti-gay violence, sex, politics, and activism.

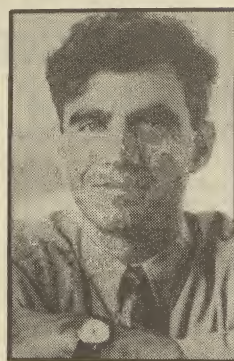
At first glance, the book may seem like old news to many lesbians and gays, but Marcus points out that the fiery debate over gays in the military reveals how little straight America knows about gays.

"What we forget is that most people — and I mean most of even those who love us — don't know anything about us and often love us despite the fact we're gay," Marcus said. "We have to educate people around us. I don't think it's the obligation of people around us to initiate the education; it's our responsibility."

To facilitate that education, Marcus has sent copies of his book to everyone on the Senate and House Armed Services Committees as well as to President Clinton and his staff.

"How can people debate the future of gay rights in American society when they don't really know what homosexuality is? We've seen that in the Senate hearings. How else could Sam Nunn come up with the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy?" Marcus asked. "What that says to me is he had no idea what we are or how we live our lives."

Marcus sees *Is It A Choice?* as a book for



Eric Marcus

straight people who may be uncomfortable asking questions of their gay friends or relatives. It can also help gays and lesbians answer questions when people are bold enough to ask. And it can help questioning gay and lesbian youth, who, Marcus points out, are not born with all the answers.

Marcus is also the author of *The Male Couple's Guide*, *Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights 1945-1990* and *Expect the Worst (You Won't Be Disappointed)*.

His promotional tour takes him to New Orleans over Pride weekend. There he will receive an award from the American Library Association for *Making History*. ▼

Lutherans Affirm Civil Rights for All

by Dennis Conkin

Local Lutheran ministers who want to bless same-sex unions may now do so, according to a resolution adopted by the Sierra Pacific synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The resolution passed last month was a substitute motion for one that would have deemed "inappropriate" any statement in support of such blessings in "monogamous, covenantal relationships between two persons of the same sex," according to the Reverend James De Lange, pastor of St. Francis Lutheran Church.

According to Lutheran belief, pastors who wish to bless same-sex unions have independent religious authority to do so, but may find themselves in trouble with their congregations if the congregations do not support such actions, De Lange said.

"Those pastors who want to do same-sex holy unions can do so and they can say to their congregations who may be hesitant about the pastor's actions that the synod resolutions support their pastoral discretion," De Lange told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"If they get in trouble with the congregations, they've covered all the bases," he said.

The synod assembly passed the resolution by a narrow vote of 272-240, or 53 percent-47 percent.

"Clearly our church is divided on the question of whether same-sex relation-

ships are sinful," said the Reverend James Lokken, an assistant pastor at St. Francis.

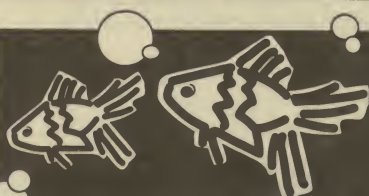
"We need to address the underlying question in order to resolve this conflict. Unity will not be achieved by voting on resolutions. Church leaders are afraid that a nationwide debate on this question will be divisive," he said.

In another resolution passed by the synod, the group affirmed its intention to continue a relationship with St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church if the congregations are expelled from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1995.

The two churches were suspended for calling and ordaining a gay man and a lesbian couple as pastors in 1990, in violation of the church policy that gay clergy must pledge lifelong celibacy.

If the church has not changed its policy by that time, the congregations will be expelled from the denomination, but will remain independent Lutheran Churches. If they wish, they may affiliate themselves with another Lutheran body.

Bishop Lyle Miller, head of the Sierra Pacific Synod, opposed the historic ordinations of lesbian pastors Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart and gay pastor Jeff Johnson. Miller's anti-gay beliefs are well known among Lutherans. He did not vote on the resolutions. ▼



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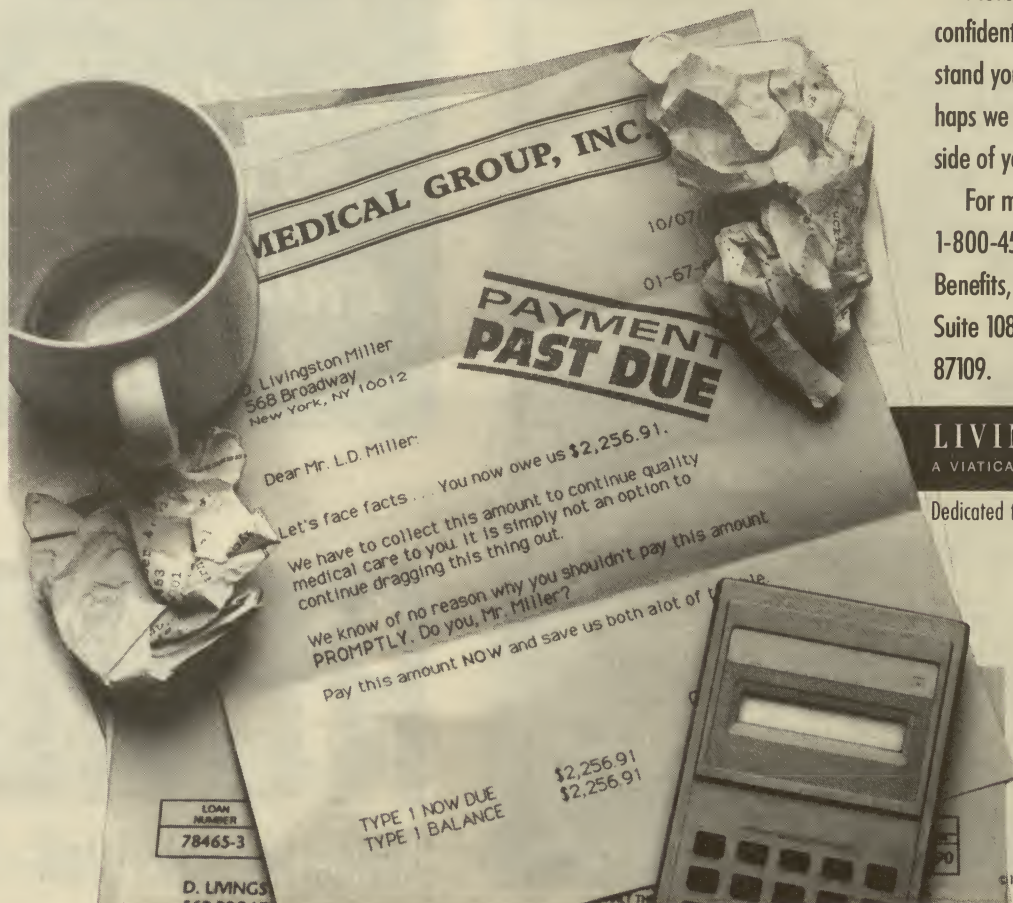
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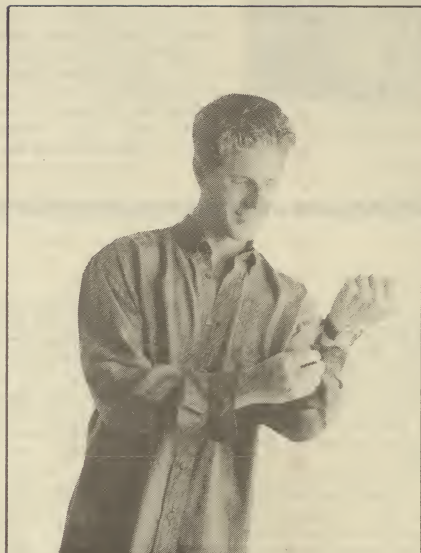
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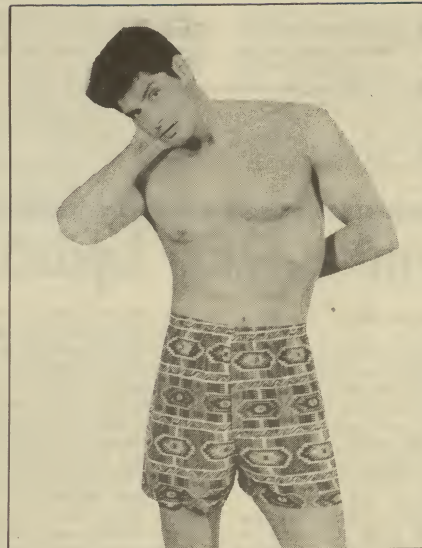
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London's Pride

by Ben Widdicombe

LONDON — About 45,000 people marched through the streets of London on Saturday, June 19, in the largest Gay Pride event ever held in Europe. The post-parade festival, which continued in Brockwell Park, drew a total of 110,000 gay men and lesbians for nine hours of celebration and free entertainment which included Boy George, Army of Lovers, and Jimmy Somerville.

The parade occurs just a week before the pan-contin-

ental "EuroPride" celebration in Berlin, setting hopes for an even bigger turnout on the 26th.

The 1993 London Pride March has been deemed an unqualified success, coming at a time when the city's headlines have been dominated by the "Gay Slayer" serial killings. The publicity generated by the recent murders has meant that for the first time in its 21-year history, Saturday's march received significant coverage by national and international media.

Bill Walshe, Press Officer for



British gay teens demand an end to inequitable age of consent laws.

the Pride Trust, said, "it was marvelous. In past years we've received nothing — not even a line on the radio to say traffic will be disrupted because there's a huge march going on."

This year, however, ABC News cameras jostled for position with crews from Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, and — even more significantly — from Britain. In a country where the gay rights movement has yet to even win an equal age of consent for male sex (21 for gay males, compared with 16 for others), the event was considered a milestone in publicity for the cause.

The march began at noon, and swung through Trafalgar Square before diverting along

(Continued on page 24)

London Killer Update

by David Olson

London police last week revealed that a serial killer is stalking the British capital's gay community and has already murdered five men. The man who police believe is the killer told them last week that he will kill one more gay man a week.

The first victim was found March 8, but the other four were killed within a span of 16 days, with the latest victim found dead in his apartment on June 15. Only last week did police publicly divulge that they believe a serial killer is on the loose.

According to Scotland Yard, which is investigating the killings, a man claiming to be the murderer has called

police stations several times, once saying he will cause "one death a week," a report in the British newspaper *The Independent* said.

Detectives have declined to release further information about the telephone calls, but they told *The Independent* that what was said during the calls, and the way the five men died, has convinced them that the same man is responsible for all five deaths.

Four of the men were openly gay, and probably had been picked up in gay bars. The fifth man's sexual orientation is not certain. All five were strangled to death, and police believe the men were killed during sado-masochistic sessions. Police and gay and lesbian community leaders

said they still do not know if the murderer is gay or if he is heterosexual and on an anti-gay rampage.

The British press has had a field day with the killing spree, emphasizing the S & M connection and the theory that the killer is an HIV-positive man seeking revenge. Even the staid *Independent* featured a large front-page photo of a gay go-go dancer to accompany its June 17 story on the murders.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ken John said in a press conference last week that such sensationalism and "disinformation" could hamper the investigation or even provoke the murderer to kill

more often.

Meanwhile, gay men in London are increasingly frightened, Nick Horsley, spokesman for the London Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, told this reporter in a telephone interview from London.

"This is a lot of anxiety out there," he said. "We're telling people that, if you do go home with a stranger, tell other people where you are going, and let the stranger know that others know where you are."

The switchboard has been swamped with calls from people scared about the killings and from some who have potential information about the murderer, he said.

The police have generally

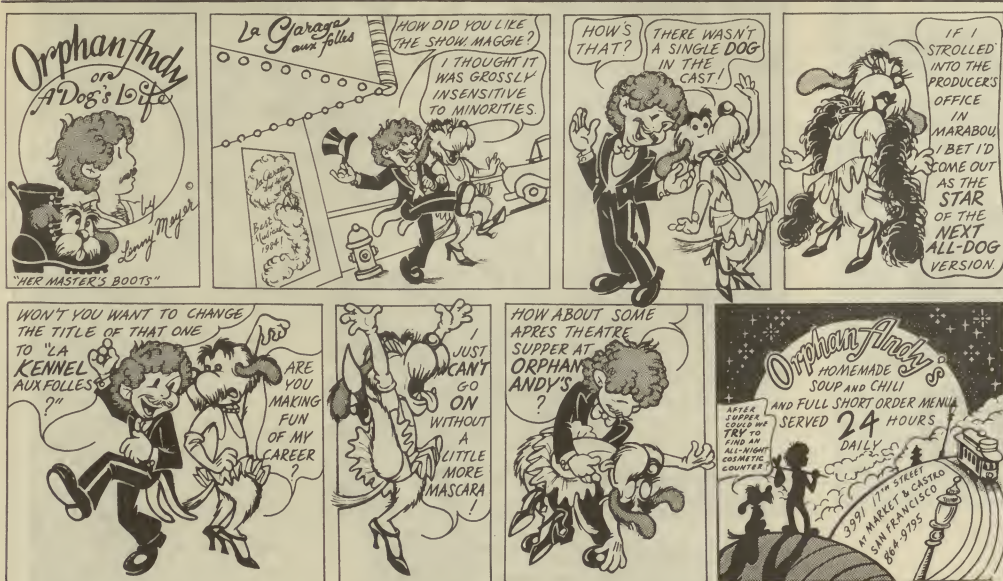
handled the case sensitively, Horsley said. But, he added, "there is a lot of general wariness in the community toward the police," and that could be inhibiting people from coming forward. The apparent S & M connection has made people especially nervous, he said, because of recent high-profile prosecutions of gay men for private, consensual S & M activities.

As a result, Galop, the Gay London Policing Group, has acted as a go-between, fielding calls from people who do not want to talk with police but have potentially helpful information. Galop then passes the information on to the police without revealing the callers' names.

More than 20 people had called as of late last week. Some said they had been attacked by someone who they had met for a sexual encounter, and others gave information on the last hours of the victims' lives, including descriptions of people the victims had last been seen with.

This is not the first time someone has preyed upon London gays. Seven years ago, a gay man was convicted of the murder of three gay men and the attempted murder of two others, along with the murder of a homeless man who had asked him for a light. The man, who is serving four consecutive life terms in prison, never gave a reason for the murders. Gay activists had widely criticized police for insensitivity in handling that case, but relations between police and the lesbian and gay community has gradually improved since then, Horsley said. ▼

[David Olson is a reporter for Chicago's Windy City Times.]



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Gays Talk Turkey, And Vice-Versa

by Brandon Judell

Doing anything between July 2 and July 4? Well, how about celebrating the first Christopher Street Day in Istanbul? Yes, Moslem Turkey is jumping into the 20th-century gay rights arena. Maybe not with the self-righteous vengeance of a Michelangelo Signorile, but with the small measured steps of a tot testing out his new walking ability.

The Turkish Homosexual Organization, under the leadership of German gay activist Heribert Murmann, is starting a magazine and holding a three-day event including symposiums, workshops, and social activities boasting a few "evening" parties. All this activity is a bit amazing considering that just two months ago, this organization was too nervous to let the B.A.R. attend one of its meetings.

No penis envy

Those not familiar with Turkey might shrug, "So what?" Homosexuality is not even mentioned in the Turkish penal code. But even though this a country where men are very touchy/feely with each other, their penises are not that highly esteemed.

Eric Lawlor, the Noel Coward of modern travel, notes in his impish *Looking For Osman*, that "Turkish men link hands when they walk in public, even kiss when they meet. But this ease of manner does not extend to nudity. Islam regards the private parts with such distaste that not even members of one's own sex may be allowed to see them."

Lawlor, a straight Irishman now settled in Houston, notes getting pounced upon right and left by seemingly straight men, some quite old, throughout his travels.

Activist Murmann, chatting with the B.A.R. at an Istanbul McDonald's (a gay meeting place for many), tried to explain, "There is another conception of homosexuality here. There is a strong division between active and passive. If you are active, that means you can fuck everything. The people think you are not homosexual. And if you are passive, you are not a real man."

Murmann agreed with the assessment that the situation is reminiscent of live for American gays in the 1950s. "There are some modern gays like those in America or Europe," he said, "but there are also many traditional gays who are most interested in heterosexuals. They want a 'real' man. And it's not so difficult to get a heterosexual."

"In other countries, people ask with whom do you sleep — a man or a woman? In Turkey, they ask, 'What do you do when you are sleeping with another man? Are you active or passive? Are you a man or not a man?' Maybe someone says, 'I'm not gay,' but he likes to sleep with men."

Murmann says the police are not much of a problem for Turkish gays, and that "it's more a problem for transvestites or prostitutes. What the police want is to

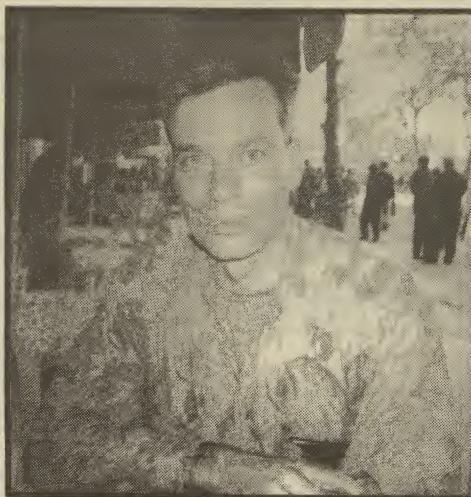
sleep with the people, and if you don't go along when they try, there is violence."

"And maybe the police are thinking of getting money. That's a second reason."

Second opinion

Arslan Yuzgun, Ph.D., author of *Homosexuality in Turkey: Yesterday, Today*, recently wrote an article entitled "Homosexuality and Police Terror in Turkey" (*Journal of Homosexuality*, Vol. 24 No. 34-1993). He claims in a study, which he admits is not totally scientific, that there are half a million homosexuals in Istanbul alone, of which 85 percent wear butch or male clothes, 12.1 percent are transvestites and 2.2 percent are transsexuals. Interestingly, 55.2 percent live with their families and 7.2 percent did not realize that being homosexual in Turkey was not a crime.

Yuzgun insists that "police



German gay activist Heribert Murmann at McDonald's, a gay meeting place in Germany. (Photo: Judell)

forces in Turkey are continuing their fight against homosexuality as if they had been appointed to obliterate it. They pick up many people they assume are homosexual from various places in the city (roads, houses, clubs,

baths and cinemas). These people are then stuffed into a place which is part prison and part lunatic asylum — which they call a 'hospital.' There, even the healthy ones are diagnosed as having syphilis (fortunately not yet AIDS).

They are locked up, beaten, and humiliated. Their hair is cut and they are thrown out of the city. Even this is not enough. They notify employers in writing, causing homosexuals to be interrogated and to lose their jobs. They even notify parents. Thus they try to make homosexuals tired of living."

Murmann insists that these are activities of the past.

Begging to differ

And what about all the lesbian and gay films (e.g. Tunisia-France's *Jigolo*; Israel's *Amazing Grace*; Fassbinder's *Querelle*) showcased at the recent 12th Istanbul International Film Festival? Would an anti-gay government foot the bill for *Walking After Midnight* and *Balcony*, intelligent works about Turkish gay women, if they were out to eradicate homosexuality? And wouldn't they ban foreign works condoning such behavior?

"Exactly!" replies Mr. Rifat from the Turkish Embassy. "In America, gays have problems," he explains. "You have disease, ethical and military problems. It's not like this in Turkey. Anyone can serve in

(Continued on next page)

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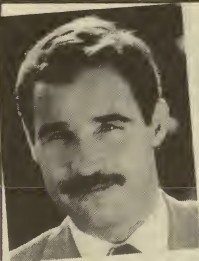


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World News

London

(Continued from page 22)

Pall Mall to Piccadilly (yelling towards a distant Buckingham Palace: "Come out [Prince] Edward, we know you're in there!"), and continuing through Park Lane into Hyde Park.

There were no motorized floats in the parade, but a sea of colorful banners advertised groups from all over Britain. Strong contingents represented gay rights groups Stonewall and OutRage; smaller groups marched with University gay clubs, social and regional organizations such as "Canterbury Dykes" and the 'Older Lesbians Network,' and AIDS-related charities such as the Terrence Higgins Trust and 'Body Positive.'

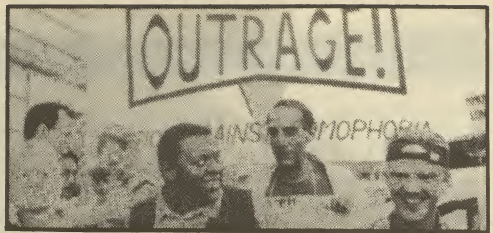
Access and mobility for the disabled were keynotes for the celebration this year, and those in wheelchairs were placed at the head of the march to set the pace for the entire parade.

By the time the front of the parade reached Hyde Park shortly after one o'clock, the end of it had not yet begun to march. The cheerful mood of the day had spread to the London Bobbies, some of whom posed happily while drag queens caressed their helmets and tourists took their photographs.

At Hyde Park, the B.A.R. spoke with Susan Hollinshead, one of the coordinators of the March on Washington, who was in London before flying home for the 'DC Pride' festivities.

"This is not a political statement," she said, "this is just a celebration of who we are. All the summer Pride events all over the world are to commemorate the Stonewall uprising of 1969, and are a chance for the gay community to get together and have some fun." She recommended the British look out for the 'Stonewall 25' event in New York next year, which promises to be one of the biggest expressions of gay solidarity this century.

As in recent years, organizers were unable to get permission to use Hyde Park for the festival, so 45,000 people crammed their way into double-decker buses, taxis, and subways to travel to Brockwell Park in south London. British Rail agreed to put on extra trains, but the Underground system was overwhelmed — and some



Isaac Julien, Darek Jarman and Jimmy Somerville join demonstrators in London.

subways trains were actually taken out of service.

Dominated by the central stage, Brockwell Park had 51 food tents, a gay business market, and even fun-fair rides, while non-stop cabaret acts entertained drinkers whose favorite pubs had set up their own stands. Organizers had provided 359 portable toilets, 100 cleaners, two first aid stations and ambulances, and paid 6,000 pounds (\$9,000) for public liability insurance. Last year's festival had been criticized for "waiting a week to clean up the park," and a local Christian group had served notice that they would be circulating during the day to collect what they described as "pornographic literature" left laying around. They wouldn't have had to look far.

Although the celebration attracted about 10,000 more people than had been predicted, the crowd remained orderly and police praised organizers and the community for their behavior. The normally reticent Chief Inspector Alan Webb of Brixton was moved to say that the day was "one of the best-stewarded events of his experience." The crowd dispersed peacefully at around 11 pm, and there were no reported arrests.

Police and volunteers handed out 10,000 leaflets on the day, with photographs of the five gay strangler victims and an appeal for more information from the public. Tabloid newspapers made much of the fact that "the murderer was probably among the crowd," and theorized that he may be using the event to make contact with his next victim.

The killings did not dampen the mood of the celebration, however, and the consensus seemed to be that it was the best Pride so far. The event was conspicuously better organized than last year, despite the fact that 1992 had been designated 'EuroPride.' EuroPride was a concept created by the British Pride committee,

which then passed it onto the international Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO), which promoted the occasion this year in Berlin. London Pride was coordinated so as not to conflict with the German festivities, and it is hoped that the spirit of the 19th will carry forward to next week.

Kim De Testre, Chair of the Pride Trust, described the day as "an outrageous success. We were very pleased with the turnout and the fact that the lesbian and gay community cannot be suppressed by murderers, society, or anyone else who wants to hold us down." The Trust was conceived earlier this year when the limited company that had originally been established to handle the event went bankrupt.

"They were a victim of the recession," said Bill Walshe, adding that some of the directors of Pride Ltd. had continued on as trustees.

This year, however, the event seems to have made a surplus. Bucket collectors on the day raised about 30,000 pounds, only a fraction of the hoped-for two-pound-a-head donation. T-shirt sales and other year-long fundraising activities generated approximately 144,000 pounds, leaving the trust 14,000 in excess of the 160,000 (\$240,000) cost.

Walshe went on to say that staging a Pride event like this was "a learning experience for us all. We were trying to take lessons from the Americans, who manage their news so well; we were happy to get some high-profile acts on stage in time for the evening broadcasts. On the whole I'd say it was a great success."

He added that he had come out to his own mother on the weekend, after she had seen him publicizing the event on breakfast television. "She's always known," he said, "but she just needed to be told. My father, who's dying, went out of his way to tell me that it was alright and that I was still his son. For me, that's what Pride is all about." ▼

Turkey

(Continued from page 23)

the army. Turks do not like male or female homosexuality, but they just smile when the subject comes up." Rifat also explains that one of Turkey's top actors is openly gay, and the transsexual singer, Bulent Ersoy, whose music was banned after her sex change, is one of the most beloved stars in the country.

The *Spartacus Guide* adds a raised thumb, too: "The Turks are a very charming, friendly people who readily befriend foreigners. Despite their bisexual tradition, they cannot understand or comprehend a 'gay' relationship. If questioned, a Turkish man will skirt the issue by referring to himself as 'papa,' then introduce his 'son.'" Just remember that many of the

straight gays you pick up might want a little gift of money as a sign of your affection at the end of night."

**In Turkey,
many
traditional
gays are most
interested in
heterosexuals.
They want a
"real" man.**

Kick stepping

Eric Lawlor has a more telling encounter of modern gay life. Traveling by sea, he gets off at Girsun, a small Turkish town. There in a tea-house, he orders some bottled water. While he's sipping, two men from his ship enter — an Oslo gay and his new lover, a seemingly slight

Turkish teen. When the teen tries to order two teas, the brutish owner of the inn voices some unpleasanties and waves the boy away with his hand, screaming, "Out!"

The boy stands his ground, infuriating the burly man further, causing him to attack.

"The two belligerents squared off, circling each other, weaving their bodies, their fists raised to shield their faces. And then the tea man made his move, lunging at the hapless boy with such force I shut my eyes. It's over, I thought. I heard a thud and then a moan."

When Lawlor opened his eyes, it was the tea man who was down. The gay boy turned out to be a kick boxer. ▼

Editor's Note: For more information on gay Turkey, write Christopher Street Day Committee, PK 317 Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey. Or call/fax Heribert Murrman at 011-901-257-2812.

Fighting High School Homophobia

by Al Kielwasser

The Spring 1993 issue of *The Wire*, the literary magazine of George Washington High School, features a hate poem, "Deal Offered on Gay Ban in the Military." The poem refers to homosexuality as "morally wrong" and calls for a continuation of anti-gay/lesbian discrimination. On the subject of the military's ban, for example, the poem's author writes: "Fifty years of sin in the closet, now an issue to be lifted by fools in politics and Gays which slap morality in its face, sinning and coming together as if it were a race."

While recognizing the author's right to poetic expression, members of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community of George Washington High felt that their dignity and their safety have been compromised. In a letter to the staff of *The Wire*, the high school's lesbian and gay students explain: "You are endangering us and encouraging prejudice. ... The message that a reader of this poem could get is that homosexuals deserve to be punished. By supporting this poem, you are also saying that our trusted faculty support it."

Following student complaints, and swift intervention from Board of Education and School District officials, an apology was announced over the school's public address system and an on-site forum was held to discuss the issue.

Send your comments to Al Vidal, Principal, George Washington High School, 600 32nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121, tel. 415-750-8400. Also, for a swift response to the student's concerns, send thanks to Tom Amiano, President, San Francisco Board of Education, 135 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102-5229, tel. 415-241-6000.

Bremerton High

Meanwhile, at Bremerton High School (near Seattle), students voted against an effort to ban lesbians and gays from holding office. A student panel had previously voted, 49-47, for a "Respectable Student Body Image" bill that would have made being lesbian or gay grounds for removal from student office. The bill was defeated in a vote before the entire student body, consisting of 1,300 students. If the bill was not rejected, school Principal Marilee Hansen had vowed to veto it.

Send congratulations to Marilee Hansen, Principal, Bremerton High School, 1500 13th Street, Bremerton, WA 98310, tel. 206-478-0753.

Stanford

The June 1993 issue of *Stanford* — a nationally distributed magazine published by the Stanford Alumni Association — contains a special feature section on "Stories of Self-Discovery: Gays at Stanford." The collection of articles ranges widely, with profiles of a filmmakers' coming out odyssey, the saga of a father whose lesbian daughter challenged him to re-think his gay-bashing fraternity background, and glimpses into various alumni and staff. Rounding off the collection is an

essay on the history of lesbian, gay and bisexual students at Stanford.

According to Gerard Koskovich, a contributor to the publication, "The editors — and the Stanford Alumni Association — have been very forward-looking in choosing to prepare this issue, given its function as a fundraising and outreach auxiliary for the university. I am certain they will receive strong complaints from inside the university and from alumni readers."

Counter the complaints, and send your comments to Bruce Anderson, Editor, *Stanford*, Bowman Alumni House, Stanford, CA 94305-4005, tel. 415-725-0672.

Naked, Hairy, Homo, Smut

The ubiquitous Gannett Outdoor Advertising company has rejected a bus shelter poster for *BEAR* magazine. The poster, which features a picture of man without his shirt, was intended for display at 18th and Castro Streets. According to a spokesperson for Brush Creek Media, Inc., creators of the poster, Gannett Outdoor Advertising deemed the poster "offensive to the moral standards of the community." In particular, Gannett objected to the slogan appearing just at the top of the poster: "Naked Hairy Homo Smut."

The billboard company asked Brush Creek Media to change the slogan to: "Masculinity... without the trap-pings."

Send comments to Gannett Outdoor Advertising, 1695 East Shore Highway, Berkeley, CA 94710, tel. 510-527-3350, fax 510-527-7041.

Sassy

The cover of the July '93 issue of *Sassy* — a monthly magazine for teen women — bears the headline: "My brother's gay. Big whoop." Inside, *Sassy's* feature writer Margie Ingall takes a look at "How My

Brother Came Out." The amusing and affirmative essay details the coming out path taken by Margie's brother, Andy. Illustrating the feature are a few photos of Andy and Margie when they were children. One photo is captioned: "It's Margie and her brother. Both of 'em grew up to like boys."

The author concludes her essay on this note: "My brother is a regular brother. People who chose to hate him because of who he is need to get a hobby. ... Right this second there are as many as 100,000 gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school seniors in America. That's how it is. The only question is whether we want to make their lives easier or harder."

Sassy's January issue included, on the "It Happened To Me" page, a coming out story by one of *Sassy's* readers. Encourage the magazine to keep up the good work! Write to Jane Pratt, Editor-In-Chief, *Sassy*, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169.

Sorry, Wrong Number

In last week's Media Watch column, the new e-mail addresses for Clinton and Gore were misprinted. Bill Clinton's e-mail address is PRESIDENTHOUSE.GOV and Al Gore's is VICEPRESIDENT.WHITEHOUSE.GOV. Modem away! ▼

The only way to cure homophobia is to confront it! Notify the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, of all defamations, omissions or affirmations, and if possible supply us with documentation. Our office number is 415-861-4588; South Bay Hotline 408-235-0229; East Bay Hotline 510-273-9146; fax 415-861-4893. Our mailing address is GLAAD/SFBA, 514 Castro St., Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94114. ▼

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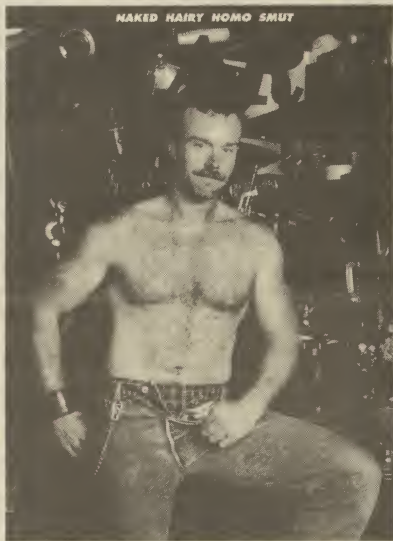


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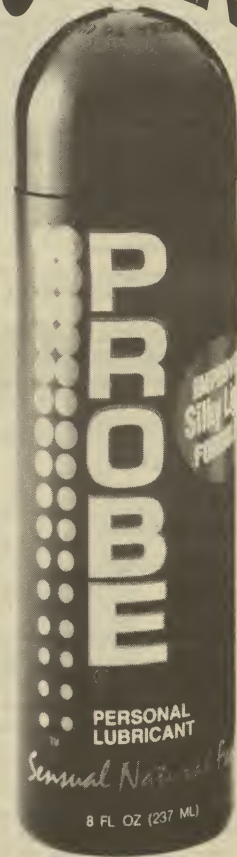
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(2nd level)



1969 A Union Street
& 541 Castro Street



Preparing to Die: Methods the Terminally Ill Use for Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide

Due to the strong interest generated from last week's panel discussion, the Hemlock Society of Northern California will hold an *in-depth interactive workshop* led by Derek Humphry, founder of the Hemlock Society and author of *Final Exit*, and Stephen Jamison, PhD, regional director of the Hemlock Society.

Join us **Wednesday, July 21, 7-8:30 pm**,
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UCSF POSITIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

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HIVCare at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Announces Patient Recruitment for the Following Studies:



Clarithromycin vs Placebo

For people with fewer than 100 T4 cells and a negative blood culture for MAC. The study provides life-long MAC cultures and routine laboratory testing. Clarithromycin is provided at no cost to patient.

DaunoXome vs Combination Chemotherapy (Adriamycin, Bleomycin and Vincristine)

For people with Kaposi's sarcoma and at least 5 untreated lesions. DaunoXome is provided at no cost to patient.

DaunoXome Compassionate Use Protocol

For people with Kaposi's sarcoma who have failed standard chemotherapy. DaunoXome is provided at no cost to patient.

Oral 882C87 vs Oral Acyclovir

For people with acute localized herpes zoster (shingles). Patients must receive drug within 72 hours of rash onset. 882C87 and Acyclovir are provided at no cost to patient. Patients will receive an honorarium for study participation.

For more information about these and other studies contact
HIVCare Client Coordinator Drew Catapano at (415) 353-6215.
HIVCare is a program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital,
900 Hyde Street, San Francisco.

National News

Bigots Rear Their Ugly Heads in Missouri

United Press International

FESTUS, Missouri — A group that opposes gay rights laws will announce a petition drive aimed at amending the Missouri constitution to keep state and local governments from prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Kerry Messer, a conservative lobbyist and director of the newly formed Amendment Coalition, says his group opened the campaign June 21 in Jefferson City.

Messer says the coalition does not want to deny equal rights to homosexuals, but contends that gay rights laws

passed recently in his hometown of Festus and other Missouri communities go too far by unintentionally giving special rights to people of any sexual orientation, including pedophiles and prostitutes.

"We're saying that you have to accept another human being, but you shouldn't have to accept another person's behavior," Messer said.

Messer declined to say how many people belong to the coalition. He said the group is closely tied to the conservative Missouri Family Network.

The secretary of state and attorney general must approve the petition's wording

before coalition members can hit the streets. Messer expects to begin collecting the needed 200,000 signatures this summer.

The petition would call for a voter referendum to decide "whether or not people of various sexual orientations should have special rights because of their sexual behavior," Messer said. Presumably exempted from Messer's definition of "people of various sexual behavior" are heterosexuals, who already enjoy special rights in such areas as tax benefits, adoption, custody, family bereavement leave, and inheritance laws. ▼

Gee, Mommy, Look at All the Coloring Books

United Press International

HUNTINGTON, Indiana — The Dan Quayle Center and Museum opens to the public today, although workers are still putting the finishing touches on the tribute to the former vice president.

The facility displays memorabilia amassed by Quayle since childhood. The initial exhibit will be "Dan Quayle: From Huntington to Washington."

It will include his Little League uniform, Little League Hall of Fame plaque, and pictures of the team.

There are also his high school yearbook, various photographs taken with foreign dignitaries during his term as vice president, and T-shirts given to him by organizations from around the nation.

Kathy Holst, a board member of the Dan Quayle Com-

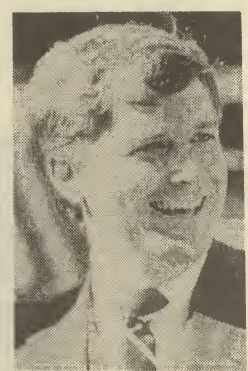
memorative Foundation and director of the Huntington Public Library, said additional exhibits are planned in the museum.

"We have more things than can be displayed at any one time," she said.

David Schenkel, another foundation board member, said the museum probably has about 11,000 items, many of which have yet to be catalogued.

Among items already catalogued are a photocopy of Quayle's hospital birth record, including a smudged print of his right footprint.

When the center is finally completed, the foundation hopes to make it home for rotating Quayle displays and traveling exhibits from the Smithsonian and other museums.



Dan Quayle

The second floor will be used as a community center and a theater to show Quayle family videos and home movies.

The museum is housed in a former Christian Science Church at 204 E. Tipton in Huntington. Admission is free but donations are accepted. The facility is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 12 to 4 p.m. Sunday. ▼

Chicago CW Radio Station Airs Anti-Gay Song, Then Apologizes

by David Olson

In an unexpected and unprecedented move, Chicago's country music station, WUSN-FM, has formally apologized for an anti-gay song it aired last month.

WUSN-FM, which calls itself US99, issued an on-the-air apology last week during the highly rated morning rush hour period. The week before, US99 Program Director Dean McNeil sent a letter of apology to the Chicago chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. GLAAD had asked for a public apology for having aired a song called "The Ballad of the Queen Berets."

"It's very heartening and encouraging that local media outlets are taking our community seriously and owning up to their responsibility," said Peter Veiguella, president of GLAAD/Chicago.

Al Wardell, former co-chair of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a longtime media monitor, said this may be the first full, public apology any Chicago media outlet has given for anti-gay actions.

On May 18, the Nashville duo Pinkard and Bowden performed "Queen Berets" live from the US99 studios. The song, sung to the tune of the 1960s song "Ballad of the Green Beret," ridiculed the idea of gays in the military, warning of gay men being poor soldiers because they would fear breaking their nails and because they would stalk other men in the showers.

"We normally don't do that type of thing," McNeil told this reporter. "We made one mistake, and we realized right away that we made a mistake, and that's why we're making an on-the-air apolo-

gy." "We didn't want to alienate anybody," he added. "We know we have a lot of listeners in the gay and lesbian community."

Veiguella said he and at least 20 individual listeners complained about the song. Veiguella said he got an immediate verbal apology from McNeil.

The on-the-air apology was especially significant because US99 is a country music station, and country music has a reputation for attracting a heavily conservative audience, he said.

"To be honest, I was surprised how willing he was to apologize," he said. "It kind of shattered some stereotypes I had about [country music]."

US99, one of Chicago's highest-rated radio stations, is the only major country music station in that city. ▼



Displayed at the Berlin AIDS conference were bricks with names of people who have died of AIDS.

What We Really Learned in Berlin

news analysis
by Jim Driscoll

The Berlin AIDS Conference made one thing clear: we still can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. The much ballyhooed tat drug has crashed and burned; nucleoside analogues, AZT, ddI, ddC, and d4t, either alone or in combination, are at best stopgap measures; protease inhibitors may go the way of tat, or become high tech stopgaps to supplement faltering nucleosides. Big Drug Inc. has struck out again, although you'd never know it from their AIDS profits.

Meanwhile, Washington provides new rhetoric, coupled with the same old lack of leadership and the traditional inaction that activists call criminal. Meanwhile, HIV spreads relentlessly. Those directly impacted with the disease continue to wonder if nothing will change until the AIDS statistics count more straight whites than gays or ghetto blacks. In the current political climate people with AIDS seem at a total impasse.

The Berlin conference was, as widely reported, mostly a failure in that it provided no new insights into HIV — except for depressing ones — but it might be considered a success if the following five insights into political processes are universally embraced:

1. *It's leadership, stupid.* As Abe Lincoln learned, in a real war you can't afford ineffective generals. Presumably, the first to go if Clinton were truly serious would be Tony Fauci, a bumbling Reagan retread. Second would be the FDA's David Kessler, who stalled ddC and the Alzheimer's drug tacrine, is now stalling d4t, and wants to restrict access to alternative therapies. If Clinton's haircut delays were as lethal as Kessler's regulatory delays, he'd be impeached. Donna Shalala slipped Kessler's reappointment through the back door to avoid a dicey Senate confirmation hearing. A little scrutiny could send Kessler the way of Zoe Baird or, more aptly, Richard Nixon.

Finally, Shalala herself deserves a tight leash. An over-weening Clinton crony, she's brought no solid leadership to AIDS or any other health problem. Her ascendancy, coupled with Clinton's failure to appoint an AIDS czar, reveals his true priorities: politics is number one and people with AIDS barely make the list.

2. *Dethrone AZT and cut its price.* Let's face it, this decrepit emperor has neither clothes nor teeth. Why waste more research talent and money testing a drug that at most works for six months and sometimes does more harm than good? And why squander precious healthcare funds on price-gouging AZT when the money is needed for other drugs, some of which work?

3. *Fund research on alternative therapies.* Currently, NIH subsidizes the research of Big Drug Inc., while inexpensive alternative therapies are ignored. NAC, DNCEB, amino acids, passive immunotherapy and many others, which may work better than AZT and are non-toxic, merit testing. Let Big Drug Inc. pay its own research bills. Use government funds for basic research and to test treatments Big Drug shuns because it can't make a killing on them.

4. *Give Big Drug Inc. a patent incentive.* The way to see mountain-moving dedication at Merck, Glaxo et al is to offer the first drug company to find a true "AIDS insulin" five years additional patent protection, applicable to any drug they own.

5. *Tear down the wall.* More than half of PWAs are gay, yet no openly gay person holds a position of authority in FDA, Big Drug Inc., or the hierarchy of HHS. The AIDS decision-makers will never understand what the disease does to our lives and communities until the wall between "them" and "us" is torn down and openly gay people sit on both sides of the table and in every smoke filled room.

Given the absence of courage, leadership, and common sense in Washington, how do we make AIDS a top political priority? The AIDS impasse continues because the two groups the disease hits hardest, gays and ghetto blacks, remain disempowered. These groups must empower themselves. Only then is AIDS certain to gain high priority, only then can we expect effective action from the President, NIH, FDA, and the drug companies.

In Berlin, in the midst of the most depressing AIDS Conference to date, ACT UP offered one of the few sparks of hope; now that group's call to unleash the power of people with AIDS is more urgent than ever before. ▼

East and West Meet at S.F. International Conference

by Lidia Wasowicz
UPI Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A 4,000-year-old practice may offer people with AIDS some relief not available in the high-tech, up-to-the-minute Western medicine, researchers told a conference Sunday, June 20.

With ten million of the world's population infected with HIV, the epidemic in its second decade, and with no cure or vaccine in sight, PWAs are looking for alternatives, they said.

The interest in non-western options is global since the available therapies are beyond the means of all but a small fraction of those infected, researchers said at the three-day "HIV, AIDS, and Chinese Medicine: A First International Conference" at San Francisco State University.

Many PWAs are turning to traditional Chinese medicine, with its customized, whole-person approach and inexpensive, simple treatments centered around herbs, nutrition, acupuncture, meditation, massage, and qigong, or simple movements to realign the "life force."

Chinese medicine appears to be particularly helpful in maintaining robustness during the early stages of HIV infection, minimizing the impact of opportunistic infections, and reducing the side

effects of western drugs, said Dr. Nancy Harris, a San Francisco General Hospital AIDS specialist and research director of Quan-Yin Healing Center in San Francisco.

"The notable benefits achieved in the use of traditional Chinese medicine as a complementary therapy for treating HIV-positive and AIDS patients are only just beginning to be recognized," said Bill Kautz, conference coordinator and former staff scientist at SRI International in Menlo Park, California.

Chinese medicine is not for the opportunistic infections themselves, Harris said in an interview.

"Rather, I have seen it tremendously reduce the side effects of such conventional medications as AZT — nausea, vomiting, anemia — and constitutional symptoms that can devastate the quality of life — feeling lousy, night sweats, diarrhea, listlessness, fatigue, the wasting syndrome, sleep problems."

Of the 125 PWAs seeking relief at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in San Francisco, nearly all are receiving western medical care as well, said clinic research director Howard Moffett.

Patients suffering from infections such as pneumocystis pneumonia — historically one of the more deadly opportunistic infections — require antibiotic treatment and,

when the condition is suspected, they are immediately sent to a doctor, Moffett said.

The clinic has had good results with treating chronic diarrhea with a mix of herbs and acupuncture, he said. Of ten patients, seven found complete relief and two experienced significant improvement following the unconventional therapy.

"The herbs are balanced so that they can be taken safely on a daily basis over long periods of time," said Harriett Beinfeld, author of *Between Heaven and Earth, a Guide to Chinese Medicine* and acupuncturist at Chinese Medicine Works in San Francisco.

By expanding the arsenal of weapons against AIDS, Chinese medicine can turn the tide against the death sentence of AIDS, making it a chronic rather than terminal illness, Harris said.

"The conference offers further conversations to what seems to be a growing perception that western medical science alone is inadequate in successfully treating some severe illnesses," said George Araki, S.F. State biology professor and director of the university's Institute for Holistic Healing Studies.

"Rather than turning away from western medicine, more and more people appear to be exploring the benefits of alternative therapies combined with traditional care." ▼

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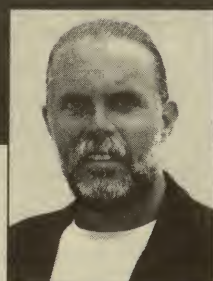
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Obituaries

Larry A. Hartless

June 16, 1993

Those who knew Larry will miss what his circle of friends were grateful to experience: his patience, compassion, and frequent pearls of wisdom. During his nearly two decades in the city, Larry was active in the local art culture

(as an artist and gallery owner), in Al-Anon and Living Sober (as a member, trusted servant and irreplaceable sponsor and friend), country-western dancing at the High Chapparral and in a number of spiritual support organizations.

More recently, Larry could be seen "holding court" for hours each day at both Hot 'n Hunky and at the corner of 18th and Hartford — sipping iced tea, making friends with his affable manner and selling his trademark glass bead necklaces.

In addition to his loving family of friends here in S.F. and across the country, Larry is survived by his parents, Fred and Jean Hartless of Homestead, Florida; three brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Thanks go out to St. Mary's AIDS/HIV Unit and the S.F. Visiting Nurses Assn. for their excellent services and abundant help.

A gathering to celebrate Larry's life is planned for Tuesday, June 29. For information please contact Kai at 282-6282 or Jonathan at 681-2429. ▼

James C. Hickman

April 20, 1941–June 15, 1993

Jim Hickman died of AIDS-related pneumonia. His passing reflected his life — one of awareness, courage and surrounded by friends.

Born in Iowa, Jim's early years were in Portsmouth, Ohio; Oberlin College for a degree in biology and the University of Oregon for his Ph.D. in ecology and systematic botany. He taught at Washington State University, Swarthmore College, and U.C. Berkeley.

In 1982, Jim began revising the first California plant identification manual and ended devoting 10 years to conceptualizing and realizing a new, landmark field guide to all of California's native plants. *The Jepson Manual*, edited by James C. Hickman, was published by the University of California Press in early 1993.

As a teacher, Jim shared his love for the natural world and encouraged those around him to truly see our beautiful planet. He became a Shanti volunteer in 1983 and supported many AIDS-related groups. Music, intellectual curiosity, and good friends were the touchstones of his life.

Jim is survived by his partner, Joseph Mayfield, San Francisco; his former wife, Carole S. Hickman, Berkeley; his parents, Beth and Paul Hickman; his brothers, Brian and Steve; and numerous loving friends, students, and colleagues.

Memorial Celebration: Saturday, June 26, 1993 at 2 p.m., University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley. ▼

Charles Kenneth Lee

March 31, 1959–June 5, 1993

Charles "Chuck" Lee died June 5, 1993 of AIDS complications and memorial services were held June 13 at Kairos House.

Chuck was educated at the University of North Carolina and the University of Florida where he received a degree in Theater and Communications and where he was an MA candidate. Locally, he attended Heald Business and Computer School, graduating with honors.

Survivors include his father, Charles Lee Sr.; mother, Joyce Stack Lee; and sister, Dona Lee Pressly; all of Monroe, North Carolina.

Active in AA for seven years, Chuck, a faithful servant, reminded us, "you just don't drink. No matter what!" and he was always willing to share his experience, strength, and hope with

newcomers. He will be missed by many local friends, including John, Janet, Dottie and Jon.

Charles — as feisty as you could be, and as loving and caring as you were — we will miss you and we will meet again. Love, John.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be given to the AIDS organization of your choice. ▼

Greg Hannaford

Oct. 31, 1950–June 14, 1993

Just after sunrise on June 14, Gregory



Charles Hannaford, while asleep, died peacefully of an AIDS-related condition in Laguna Beach, California.

Born in Pasadena, Greg grew up in Anaheim, where not long after high school, he, like his late father, Charles, went to work for Disneyland. In 1977, Greg moved to San Francisco and was employed by the Hilton Hotel, then Pacific Bell and, lastly, by the E.P.A. Despite being a dedicated employee who gave more to his employers than he received in return, Greg's special province was his art. He was accomplished in drawing, weaving, ceramics, mask-making and puppetry. Greg's work, characterized by a delicate line, a spring palette and an expressed humor, if not whimsy, is, like he was, bouyant, sunny, and witty.

Because he was a Californian and an artist for whom the image of the sun was a recurrent motif, that Greg should die as the sun rose over Southern California seems felicitous. We, who were lucky enough to have known Greg, have memories at least. But, in contrast to Greg's florid personality in life, an unadorned memory indeed appears pallid. Maybe in us a fragment, an essence of Greg survives. He was, after all, profoundly spiritual. Certainly by his loyal friendship, his exemplary honesty and his reverence for life, Greg ineluctably altered us. From now on, if ever we consider betraying a trust, or lying, or squashing a bug, I'll bet that in some sense Greg will be present, and in us his qualities will endure.

On June 18, a memorial service was held for Greg in Anaheim at St. Anthony's, the church he attended as a child. His ashes will be buried beside his beloved Aunt Helen in the old Anaheim founders' cemetery, where as a child he played and as a young adult dropped acid.

Greg is survived by his mother, Marie; and by his many friends. He will be missed. ▼

David Reichling

Oct. 5, 1958–June 16, 1993

David Reichling died quietly of AIDS-related lymphoma at Coming Home Hospice, SF, on June 16, 1993.



David was a graduate of the University of Illinois, Champaign, in architecture and in engineering. He also was working on a masters engineering program at Stanford before ill health forced him to abandon his studies.

In 1983, he fulfilled a life goal, moving to San Francisco, where he worked in marketing and later, research technology for Chevron. He enjoyed the gay life of the city as well. He contracted the HIV virus in 1983, and fought a gallant and gracious personal battle with HIV for nine years, and with AIDS, more recently.

Three years ago, after a lifetime of a very diverse gay lifestyle, he chose to take the risk of a long-term relationship and spent his remaining energies on that endeavor with typical enthusiasm.

Weeks before his death, he also revealed to his mother that what moved him most, in people, was the love found in simple kindnesses. He experienced continuing transformations during his short life span.

His passing carries with it an ongoing trail of love, from his parents, Dorothy & John; a brother, Michael; to many family and friends, including, Mike Abate, who was his closest "friend," — friend for his lifetime.

Those whom he touched will enjoy the rich legacy of his own personal love for them, which continues and grows. ▼

Robert (Bobby Chico) Ferris

May 20, 1960–June 16, 1993



Robert died peacefully in his sleep at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, after a courageous year-long battle with multiple AIDS-related illnesses.

Even though he was scared, he always kept a positive attitude and always had a smile on his face.

There beside him day and night was his grandmother, Karen and his friend Mac, who supported him for the last year. Robert was born in S.F. and was raised by his grandparents Sally and Raymond Bannag.

Robert was a very creative and artistic person who has touched all our lives in his own special way.

Robert leaves behind Salud Bannag, Catalina Ferris, Ernest & Gloria Bannag, Jazmena Bannag, Regina Bannag, Damon Bannag and family, Aaron Guillory and family, Karen Detriwidad and Darren McCleary (Mac).

We would like to thank the staff of Ward 86, Suzanne Glassgow, RN of S.F. Visiting Nurses and Hospice and many more for their help in caring for Robert and we end by saying he's in better hands now than we could ever give him. ▼

Thomas Lindsay Fleming

June 18, 1933



Thomas Lindsay Fleming, 40, youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. Dean S. Fleming, died June 18, 1993, of AIDS, at the home of his parents, in Santa Rosa.

Tom was a longtime resident of the Bay Area where he was active in the performing arts.

Tom was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and grew up in Hopkins, a suburb.

In 1974 he received a Bachelor of Arts (History Major) from Stanford University. In 1991 he received his Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

In San Francisco his performing experience in 1977-83 included productions at the Magic Theatre, Eureka Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Soon 3 (including an Italian tour in 1983).

He was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in 1981-82, and more recently the Oakland Symphony Chorus. Tom was also a member of The Jesters singing group.

Tom was especially proud of his work with Donald Phippen's Pocket Opera, where he served as Stage Director and Production Manager.

Tom lived for several years in Los Angeles where he was employed by Orion Pictures as Assistant to the Script and Story Editor. He also worked at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley.

Tom was a swimmer and hiker and an avid reader of a wide range of subjects. He was blessed with a great, wry sense of humor, a host of wonderful friends and a loving family. He always had a cheerful, optimistic outlook for future adventures.

There will be a Memorial Service at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Kenwood, at 4:30 p.m. on June 29. ▼

Larry Dean Mauk "Bunny"

Sept. 30, 1955–June 16, 1993



After a long painful struggle with AIDS, Bunny found his way to a peaceful place. He lived life with zest and reached a consciousness that attracted many loving people into his life.

He will be surely missed by his father, Bob; mother, Lou; brother, David; sister, Susan; and friends old and new.

Special thanks to those who stood by him during his illness — Jim, Jack, Jan, Madeline, Sean, Darrel, Annie, Mary, Wayne, Brad, Richard, VNH, and all.

Your journey is unknown to us — we will join you when it is our turn to ride the wind that takes you with the tide. ▼

Obituaries

John H. Anagnos MSW

July 10, 1954-June 12, 1993

John died at home on Sunday morning surrounded with love from his roommate Sal, his friend, Mark, and the love of his life, his dog Eno.

John had been suffering with AIDS for the past year. He moved to San Francisco in

1990 from Dallas, Texas. John dedicated the last 13 years of his life helping others as a clinical social worker. He received his BS in Psychology at Brigham Young University in Utah and his MSW at Loyola University of Chicago. He was employed here at Belmont Hills Hospital until his illness became disabling. John died as he wished with his dignity intact and at peace with himself and all who loved him. John is survived by his family in New Hampshire, Dallas, Seattle, and San Francisco.

John was loved by many people and his life will continue through them. ▼

Lynford W. Light

June 3, 1993

Lynford W. Light, 36, son of Mrs. Esther E. Light and the late Rufus A. Light, passed away Thursday, June 3, after a long illness with Cryptococcosis Meningitis at Kaiser Permanente French Campus Hospital, San Francisco, California. Lyn was the manager of San Francisco's famous Lone Star Saloon until his illness forced him to retire last winter. He remained active with his charitable and social activities as long as his health allowed. A memorial beer bust will be held in his honor Saturday afternoon, June 26, 1993, at the Lone Star Saloon. Please call (415) 863-9999 for further information.

He is survived by his mother, brothers, George and Lester Snyder; six nieces and one nephew, two great nieces and three great nephews, also three Aunts, Mrs. Edith Bleichert, Miss Minerva Gingrich, Mrs. Florence Ebersole and a host of loving friends.

A graveside service will be held at a later date, at the convenience of the family in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Memorial gifts can be made to Lyn's favorite charity, the SF AIDS Emergency Fund, 1550 California St., #7, SF, CA 94109. ▼

Richard Iosty

April 14, 1951-Dec. 29, 1992

AIDS activist, art historian, scholar, student, teacher, friend and inspiration. A memorial will be held for Richard Iosty on Saturday, June 26, 2 p.m. at the Neptune Society Columbarium, 1 Lorraine Ct. (between Arguello and Stanyan, off Geary Blvd., behind the Coronet Theatre), San Francisco. ▼

Thomas G. Frazier

Oct. 25, 1946-June 3, 1993

Tom died of AIDS at the Garden Sullivan Hospice on June 3, 1993. His friends Bob, Ron, and Boyde were at his side.

He was born and spent his early years in northeast Oklahoma. He honorably served his country in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Tom is survived and greatly missed by his grandmother Frazier, mother Lela Aker, sisters Clarice Potter and Marcy Cossey, nieces Tammy and Mindy, nephews Scott and Grady, and his many friends.

Tom will always be remembered for his love, caring and compassion for the underprivileged, disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and those less fortunate than himself, and also for his love of animals and nature and his eye for simple style and beauty that he always managed to find all around him.

We would like to extend a very special thanks to the nursing staff at Garden Memorial Hospice for their generous care and compassion.

Tom will be missed and always remembered. The world is a sadder place without him. ▼

Kenneth Metzgar

Jan. 7, 1951-June 19, 1993

Our Kenny left us Saturday morning, free now from the pain and fear that troubled him in his final few days.

This sweet, gentle man will be greatly missed by a host of loving family and friends, including his sister, Helene; parents, Beck and Tony; his lover, Eric; and long time companion, Guy.

Kenny possessed a delightful and unique spirit that brought joy to many. This was one fun, fella! He had an air about him, and a way with words so utterly charming and lovable that their echo will remain loud and clear in our hearts and minds as long as we live.

He would often say jokingly, "Ya know, life doesn't always paint a pretty picture."

In fact, Kenny's adorable presence helped to beautify life for many of us.

Friends will gather at the Marina Green this Saturday, June 26 at 3 p.m. in celebration of Kenny's life and the places, things, and people that he loved.

Please, no flowers, but donations to the AIDS charity of your choice would be thankfully appreciated. ▼

Ira Clark, Jr.

March 30, 1943-June 8, 1993

Ira touched a lot of hearts. He was a dear and true friend to many.

We wish you peace. A memorial get together will be held on July 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Phone Booth on 25th and S. Van Ness. ▼

Justin Sawin Fingado

Aug. 22, 1946-June 1, 1993

Justin Fingado (known by his family as "Rusty") died in San Francisco on June 1, 1993. Born in Paterson and raised in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, he attended Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. and earned a diploma in Computer Repair from The

Control Data Institute in Atlanta, Georgia in 1989.

In the decade of the 1970s, he owned and operated a very successful hair salon called "Justin Thyme," in Littleton, N.H. His life-long gifts and passions included gardening and working with plants.

To know Justin was to know his special touch with antiques and the magic of turning a house into a home.

We remember Justin for his sense of humor, love of music and zest and love for life. His years in San Francisco were enriched by his association with the Gay Men's Chorus and was the defining element of his last years. His legacy to us all is his gregarious personality, his music and his courage in the face of AIDS. ▼

Victor Lopez Cruz

Jan. 21, 1944-May 11, 1993

Victor had provided tireless care for many men right from the beginning of the epidemic, most especially for his ex-lovers Orlando and Gary.

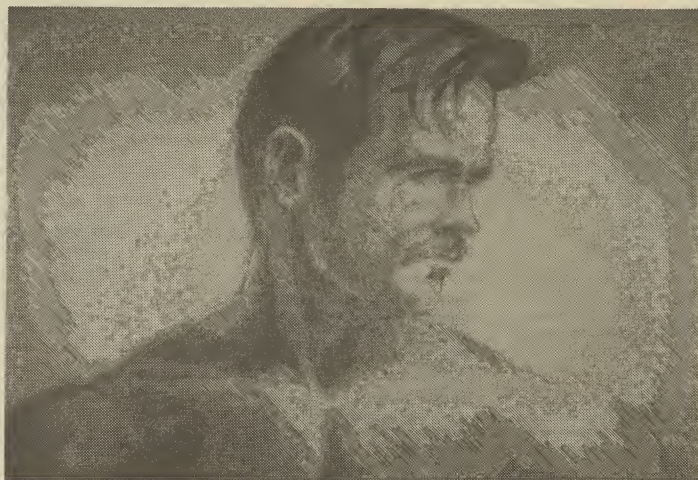
And now, two weeks before he himself died of pneumocystis, as he lay in his hospital bed, his

breathing assisted, he coughed and talked about his life. He said, "I don't have any regrets. I've lived my life as I wanted to. When I think of the wonderful men, the great drugs, the incredible parties I've travelled all over the world - what's to regret? I've had a good life. I've helped people. I'm happy and I found my religion." He kept the Book of Common Prayer near his bedside and he was sorry that the medication kept him from being able to read for more than a couple of minutes at a time.

Victor is survived by his lover, Allan, by his friends in San Francisco and New York and by his family in Puerto Rico. We will always miss you, friend, you who have gone before us. ▼

SCOTT ALLEN SHIPE

November 10, 1957 - May 29, 1993



Scott died of AIDS on May 29, 1993, at age 35. He was dearly loved and will be missed greatly. Scott was a handsome, quiet, and solitary man who grew up along the graceful beaches of Santa Barbara. After leaving home and coming out, he lived at the Russian River and in New York, but spent most of his adult life in the City.

In his 20s, Scott worked as a bartender at many popular places (Lion's Pub, Sutter's Mill, the Deluxe, Drums, and Dreamland), making numerous friends, and discovering his hidden talent for lighting. Scott then changed careers, becoming a bright spot among local lighting design professionals. He was quite proud of his achievements in this field.

Scott had an artistic and gamy approach to life, and found great tranquility in being outdoors. He was a loving combination of gruff masculinity, surprising warm-heartedness, and wry humor. At times stubborn, he highly valued independence, which characterized his approach to living with AIDS.

Diagnosed with CMV in December 1991, Scott, as a brave warrior, fought HIV with quiet aggression. His last employer, Casella Lighting, was extraordinary in support of Scott following his disability leave from work. During his arduous decline, Scott inspired those around him by a tenacious courage to live. His surrender was marked by compassion, dignity and hope. And now, having shed that struggle, he can exist at peace.

Survivors include Scott's caregiving support group: his life partner, Rick Bidgood and his compassionate friend, Tim Shaw; his parents, Pat and Ed; five sisters, Cheryl, Chris, Becki, Valerie, and Laurie; brother-in-law, John; and numerous friends such as Kirk B., Kim C., Alan B., Jimmy B., Hank G., Michael S., and Chris B. Sadly, Scott was predeceased by many other friends. Special thanks to his physician, Stephen Becker, and nurses Sandy M., Karen R., and Barbara M.

A gathering to remember Scott is planned for June 26. Call (415) 863-3394 for information. Life pauses at the profound loss of this luminescent man. As we sift through the remains, the words of Chinese poet Lu Xun offer some comfort: "Hope is like a path in the countryside: originally there was no path. Yet, as people walk all the time in the same spot, a way appears."

VINCENT H. EVANS

MAY 31, 1949 - MAY 30, 1990

Devoted son, lover, friend
Born in Manhattan. Attended
Queens College.

Vince early exhibited his love of travel & adventure combined with a love for music, when, at eighteen, he pedaled his bicycle from the lower east side of Manhattan to Woodstock.

In his mid-twenties he was co-owner of "Buttermilk Bottom" - a top quality disco on the edge of Wall Street.

He moved to San Francisco in the mid seventies and followed a varied career as d.j., hairdresser, salesperson, office assistant, handyman and interior designer.

He travelled frequently and easily to all corners of this country and abroad - exhibiting his "cool" exterior to all and revealing his charm and intensity - his "King of hearts" to a lucky few.

Whether going out to paint an apartment, to visit showrooms, to attend galas, to make an appearance at the Folsom St. Fair, to dance with The FoggyCity Squares, or to disco the night away - he was immaculately and perfectly dressed for the occasion.

He was active to the end. He travelled on The RSVP Mexican Riviera Cruise at the end of March. On April 24th, he drove his cherished Bronco to the Mission, dined out and attended Theatre Rhinoceros.

On May 16th, he was admitted to UCSF Hospital and passed on May 30th, one day before his 44th birthday.

Both his father and his ever-supportive mother were here from New York at his passing.

He will be sorely missed on this plane.
'Breathe on him breath of god, fill him with life anew.'



Obituaries

Vincent "Vince" Evans

May 31, 1949–May 30, 1993

After a very short final illness, Vince passed on at Laguna Honda one day short of his 44th birthday.

No ordinary person in life, he will be pleased to see, with you, his larger display obituary in this life. ▼



Ritch Stroud

Dec. 26, 1961–June 10, 1993

My companion of the last ten years, Ritch Stroud, passed away on June 10, after a two and a half year struggle with AIDS. It was his wish that all who gave him such great support during this period be acknowledged. Myself and Ritch would like to thank Jenne Edin-



son and Kate Bartholomew of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of S.F. for their help in our time of need. Also, Veronica Baskir of the Department of Social Services of S.F. for her help, and David (David) for the haircuts and thoughtful visits. Ritch also wanted all of the crew at the Gangway: John Wise, Darrell Wright, Woody and Bobby to know that during this difficult time you all deserve credit for your wonderful support. This includes the many customers who were our friends and were so kind. Also, I must mention our wonderful neighbor, Ralph Stevens, whose kindness and witty conversation helped myself and Ritch through some of our darkest days.

It was Ritch's wish to spend all of his last days at home and because of the wonderful and dedicated help of Mr. William Schultz of S.F., this wish was accomplished. Bill, words cannot express our thanks to you. We wish you happiness forever.

We will all miss you, Ritch. Each and every one of us, including the cats you loved, Leroy and Carmen and as for myself, Ritch, I wish you love — Monti. ▼

Harry Allen

Oct. 23, 1950–May 9, 1993

Harry Allen passed away in DC from complications related to AIDS on May 9, with his family and lover of five years, Chris Olson, by his side.

A longtime resident of San Francisco, Harry received his B.S. from SF State and his Masters of Library Science from U.C. Berkeley.

Harry worked as a corporate research executive at Pacific Bell in SF and San Ramon for 11 years before working for MCI in 1992.

Harry, shy and reserved when one first met him, will be most remembered for his outrageous sense of humor and his ability to shock people with his remarks. Always a professional on the job, he still was able to make the job enjoyable for those he worked with, never taking things too seriously. He will be missed terribly by his friends in SF, Washington, DC, and other areas.

Harry is survived by his mother, Dora Allen, sisters, Brenda and Jerry; twin brother, Larry; and his lover, Chris Olson.

We are so grateful Harry didn't suffer a painful, prolonged illness. It was wonderful to know him.

A memorial service is planned for June 26, at 1 p.m. at Grace Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in Harry's name to AmFAR, 5900 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor, E. Satellite, Los Angeles, CA 90036. ▼

Daniel Peter Warner

June 14, 1993

You were beautiful in every way and you saw the world the same way.

Daniel was so fun and so loving and he was very important to the Gay community.

Partly in response to his friend, Bill Bader's passing in 1983, Daniel

co-founded the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation. In 1991, Daniel received L.A. Shanti's Commitment to Service award, which seemed to be his proudest moment. Since then, the award has been the Daniel P. Warner Commitment to Service Award.

Daniel also participated in San Francisco's Wedge program, through which he spoke to high school students on AIDS prevention. The students' thank you notes always mentioned appreciation for helping point out how wonderful and lovable they were. His last presentation was at Washington High School just six days before he died.

Daniel consulted with TV networks on the portrayal of gay men in such movies as the Emmy award-winning *An Early Frost*. He also threw the first pitch for the Giants as a Shanti representative in 1991.

Daniel, your life was sheer poetry, art, and fun and we are so grateful to have crossed paths with you. We're happy to know you're out of pain, that you died the way you lived: with love and peace, and that we know you're now with your little sister Cathy, with Gary, and with so many other good ones. But we'll miss you terribly. We love you, sweetie-pie. ▼



Michael M. Orlich

March 26, 1955–May 27, 1993

Michael left us around 8 p.m. on a Thursday, in the company and loving care of his father, Mike, who had spent the last, most painful weeks providing constant care for his son, along with the equally loving care of Michael's sister, Joy.

Born and raised in Reno, Michael graduated from high school there, attended the University of Nevada and gradually migrated to San Rafael, where he ended a 15-year career with Pacific Bell as a maintenance and construction splicer. After illness struck, Michael moved to San Francisco where he could be closer to most of his friends, good care, and his favorite pubs.

Those left behind in addition to his father, Mike and sister, Joy are mother, Barbara Hoover of Padre Island, TX; sister, Renee Olson of Albuquerque; brother, Russell Hoover, Kansas City. Michael was preceded in death by former lover Edward and a horrific number of friends. In addition to immediate family, he is survived by Alex, Bret, very special friend, Jeanie, John, caterer extraordinaire, who, with his partner, Robert, provided an incredible, unforgettable evening of celebration on Michael's 38th birthday, Keith, "Little Mo," Patrick, Steve, Steven and a host of other too numerous to mention.

Michael is painfully missed by us all, but remembered as a loyal, high-spirited friend, ready for anything and, for a variety of reasons, usually the center of any gathering whether it be at a cocktail party, a hike up Mt. St. Helena, shopping or at Molly Brown's. It's just not going to be the same without hearing Michael's familiar "Whaddya doin'" at the other end of the phone.

Whaddya doin', dear Michael? Your resting and the suffering is over.

Cremation occurred in San Francisco and Michael's ashes travelled back to Reno, where they are interred at Mountain View Cemetery. ▼

Terry Lay

July 20, 1960–June 1, 1993

Terry Lay passed peacefully at the Fort Miley Veterans Hospital in San Francisco early Tuesday morning June 1 of complications from PCP and HIV.

Terry was a long-time partner and best friend of John Mitchell. He is

survived by his mother, Lee Etta Moses Walker of Corbin, KY; one sister, Kimberly Ann Burns of West Salem, Ohio; three brothers, Tonka and Timmy Lay, both of Corbin, KY and Harmon Lee Walker, Jr., of Thibodaux, LA; one niece, one nephew.

Moving to San Francisco in 1987, he worked as a telephone operator for many of the answering services, making many friends along the way. He attended Alameda Community College and was a volunteer at Fort Miley. He was also a member of the First Congregational Church of San Francisco, and a member of the San Francisco Zoo.

Many thanks to the staff and friends of Fort Miley for taking such good care of him. He drove you all "NUTS" in his own loving way.

Services were held June 5, in Corbin, KY. A local memorial service is being planned. Please call 239-6560 for details. ▼

Kenny Eason

Oct. 12, 1949–March 20, 1993

On the first day of Spring, in San Francisco, Kenny died after being long challenged by HIV.

He lived in the San Diego area from birth to his early 20s, where he graduated from Hilltop High School as an honor student and was an accomplished member of the swim team. He attended the University of California, San Diego, and studied



towards a degree in communications. During that time he was involved with the anti-war movement against U.S. intervention in Vietnam, and lived in Ocean Beach, where he was a community activist and a contributing member of the *Ocean Beach Rag*, a local alternative newspaper.

In 1976, he relocated to San Francisco and became a member of the People's Bakery Collective for many years. He was briefly employed by Bank of America until he went on disability in 1989.

Kenny loved the diversity of cultures and lifestyles that are so uniquely San Francisco, and enjoyed living independently in his Mission District apartment until his final hospitalization.

He was a special person to all who knew him and he will be greatly missed by many San Francisco friends and his family in Southern California. ▼

Bruce C. Herbert

June 26, 1951–June 15, 1993

Bruce C. Herbert of San Rafael died at home Tuesday, June 15 of AIDS-related pneumonia. He was 41.

A native of Santa Rosa, Bruce was the son of science fiction author Frank Herbert and advertising manager Beverly Herbert.

Bruce had a lifelong interest in electronics and broadcasting. He built his own radio station at the age of 13 in Fairfax, worked in TV broadcasting in the midwest in his 20s, and later owned an electronics repair business in Fairfax that, among its customers counted a number of San Francisco's pleasure palaces of the 70s heydays.

He also worked creating and marketing software, and was a professional photographer, specializing in video work.

An activist within the gay community, Bruce was a member of a number of organizations, including The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., where he was engrossed in creating a documentary on the history and current work of the group.

He was an accomplished cook who also loved music, books, and a stimulating conversation.

Among those who will miss Bruce are his longtime intimate friends Chris, Elaine, and Andy; his brother Brian, and his sister Penny Merritt.

Private services will be held, with a memorial fund established at Hospice of Marin, Corte Madera. ▼

Gary Capps

April 27, 1953–June 18, 1993

Gary died in the arms of Lindell

Bruce, his lover of eleven years, and was supported by the concerted energies and love of those who stood by him during the last two days of his life. These included his mother, Cathy Capps, and many



friends.

Born and reared in Pueblo, Colorado, Gary attended the University of Colorado in Boulder before moving to San Francisco in 1977.

Always dedicated to the welfare of children, Gary sponsored Alateen groups and volunteered his time helping disadvantaged youngsters learn to read. In 1987, after first testing positive for HIV, he returned to college, receiving his B.A. from San Francisco State University in 1989. For two years, he taught 2nd graders at M.P. Brown School in Daly City. During his long illness, he occasionally managed to return to the school "just to be with the kids."

Previous to teaching, Gary was a familiar face at the San Francisco Symphony box office, where he worked for 10 years.

Clean and sober for 15 years, Gary was active in A.A. and Al-Anon, and was also a founding member of a 12-step support group for people with HIV, a meeting which has served as a model for other groups nationwide.

A celebration of his life will be held at Most Holy Redeemer Church at 1230 p.m. on Saturday, June 26th. A potluck will follow at Lindell's home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Shanti Project or Kairos House. ▼

George Lourbis, founder of Explorama, died Wednesday, June 9, 1993 at age 54, of AIDS related illness.

George was born, and raised in Missoula, Montana. At age 17, he moved to San Francisco where he worked at Macy's as Manager of Printing for the California division, and later became Public Relations Director for Ernst Necktie Company.

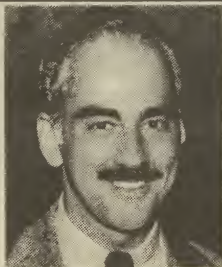
In 1961 at age 22, George started narrating and showing travel adventure films. His company, The Explorer Club, which later became Explorama, revolutionized the industry.

George also founded Explorama Cruises in 1978. And in 1983 he took over Cable Car Travel Agency on Union Square.

Explorama feature length travel documentaries became increasingly popular. By the 1980's Explorama was showing films in over ten locations in the Bay Area as well as in San Diego and Los Angeles. One movie attracted as many as 250,000 viewers. Explorama became the nation's largest presenter of travel films.

Explorama was credited with reviving the travel movie business, and with improving it, largely due to George's insistence that each movie presentation be accompanied with an in-person narration by its producer.

A memorial has been established to the Maitri Hospice on Hartford Street.



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Friends and Enemies

by Michael C. Botkin

Mayor Jordan has a long and checkered history with San Francisco's gay community, such that he's hardly counted as our "friend." Yet this not-to-so friendly mayor has just appointed a Latina lesbian to replace Supervisor Achtenberg when he could have appointed a wealthy Downtowner or another god-child. As enemies go, he's rather congenial.

On the other hand is our biggest "friend" Bill Clinton. Mainstream pundits insist that "Bill Clinton is the best friend the gays have ever had.

Commentary

or will ever get." But it's hard to see what good we have gotten out of this friendship. Is a good enemy that much better than a bad friend?

Some people like to portray Mayor Jordan as a complete buffoon, but he's made some amazing comebacks from what should have been fatal goofs, especially regarding the gay community. He was Chief of Police during the notorious "Castro Sweep" of 1989, an unprovoked anti-queer police riot. But he made amends for that by tossing his brother to the wolves. (His brother is reportedly still pissed about it; but that's what happens to you when you're Jordan's friend instead of his enemy.)

Even so, the gay and lesbian community remained cool to Jordan until the infamous incident where he had his shoe pulled off in a scuffle during the AB101 demonstrations. The shoe was ritually immolated on top of a donut box; soon after, Jordan toppled Agnos and became mayor. Between the catharsis provided by the shoe and the looming need to establish some sort of *modus operandi* with City Hall, a cool balance was restored. Jordan remained good-natured about the shoe, we let him off the hook on the Sweep.

Replacing a damned lesbian

It wasn't long before this was disrupted by the Hongisto affair. It is difficult (and perhaps painful) to recall that the gay community actively hailed this appointment at the time. But Hongo went crazy when given carte blanche to restore order in the wake of the L.A. riots, targeting the queer community for pre-emptive strikes to prevent unrest. He finally overreached himself when he sent the vice squad out to trash the *Bay Times*, which had a mildly obscene parody of the Hongo on its cover.

Jordan resolved the resulting blow-out by canning Hongisto fast. This was heavy-duty, first-amendment stuff, and he guessed — correctly, as it turned out — that The City could best avoid liability by disassociating from Hongo's action ASAP. Hongisto, instead of waiting quietly for a consolation prize, attempted to rally conservative public support; as a result he got nothing. His rapid departure and rough treatment mollified the gay and lesbian community.

Even so, we've spent the past several months wondering who Jordan was going to appoint to replace Achtenberg, the "Damn Lesbian" who vacated her lofty position on the Board of Supes to go to Washington. Just a year ago we had three gay or lesbian members (out of a total of 11) on the Board, a plurality that provided the core of a liberal majority; now we were faced with having just one. It certainly didn't seem likely that Jordan would cater to our anxieties in this regard when he could appoint anyone he wanted to boost the conservative wing in general and his clout in particular.

When push came to shove, Jordan apparently decided that he needed to throw us a bone. Cuts ordered by his office will soon close many AIDS-related City services, despite Jordan's oft-repeated campaign promises to the contrary. Community reaction to this has already been strong (for example, last week his office was briefly occupied by queer activists protesting the cuts). But this gesture of a lesbian appointment will satisfy some gays and lesbians enough to keep the whole community from coalescing against him, and once again "Mayor Magoo" will have somehow stumbled through the chaos.

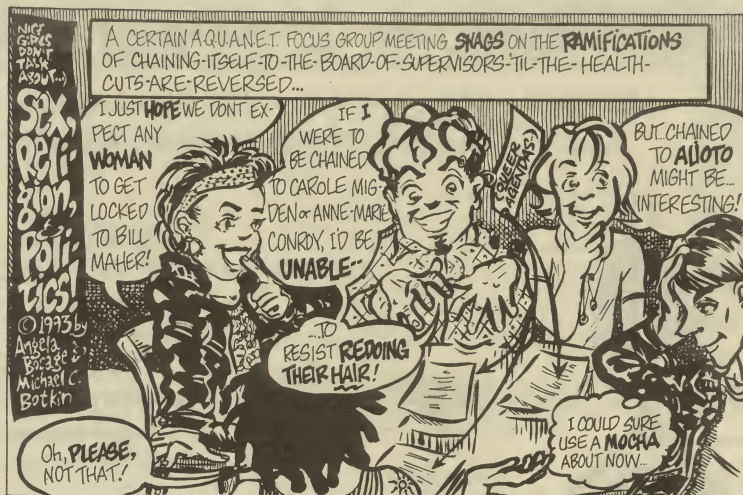
Don't ask

Jordan must mollify us occasionally, because we're a large and solid voting block; so he's a generous enemy. President Clinton, on the other hand, really doesn't have to give us anything to preserve our friendship. Where are we going to go if we break with him? The Republicans are drifting ever further to the right, and even a "moderate" like Republican Senate leader Bob Dole voted against approving Achtenberg for her new post. We're in his vest pocket (along with all those millions of dollars we donated) and everyone knows it.

Where Jordan sees us as a powerful enemy, whose wrath is to be feared, Clinton sees us as a pathetically weak and vulnerable friend; almost a liability.

Even so, one can be a rather lukewarm friend and still do a lot less damage than Clinton is doing our cause. In a couple of weeks, in mid-July, he'll announce his decision on the ban on gays in the military. It will almost certainly be a "compromise" along the lines of the "don't ask, don't tell" neo-closeted policy proposed by Senator Nunn and endorsed by the nominally gay Congressman Barney Frank ("the Weenie of the East").

I don't know how closeted queer soldiers feel about it, but I rather suspect we'd all be better off if the whole thing had simply never been brought up at all in the first place. When Clinton announced his intention to remove the ban it kicked off a chain of events that soon got out of control. The military has been whipping up an anti-gay crusade of impressive proportions, and naturally this has spilled over into the civilian world as well. Queer-bashing is at an all-time high and continuing to rise. If Clinton backs down on his promise, as he's getting ready



to do, it will signal open season on us and our rights all across the country. The protections offered to gay and lesbian soldiers by a "don't ask, don't tell" policy will be trivial compared to the flood of violence unleashed by the recent Pentagon-sponsored hate-mongering.

To put it in grade-school playground terms (which better approximates the military mind) it's as though little queer Mikey's friend Big Bill offers to help him resolve his conflict with the local bullies. "You just gotta talk to 'em firm," Bill assures, leading Mikey to the ruffian's lair. "Come on out!" he yells, "Mikey here wants to give you a piece of his mind!"

Out they pour, about four times as many as Bill had

counted on, armed with bats and bottles. "Hey, Bill; isn't that your old lady calling you?" asks their brawny leader. Demonstrating conclusively his contention that "talkin' firm" always works, Bill takes the hint and scuttles home, leaving Mikey to face the mob alone. Later he'll help Mikey bandage his multiple cuts, bruises, and abrasions; but only in private, for from now on he doesn't feel it's wise to be seen in public with Mikey.

Sure he meant well; but his fine attentions only caused more trouble. If only our enemies had such "friends!"

We might as well note briefly here that Clinton has not honored any of his other promises to the gay and lesbian community. There is no

"AIDS Czar" on the horizon, and frankly at this point I could care less about who gets this hopelessly watered-down position. HIVers are still barred from the country and Clinton never got around to closing the Haitian PWA death camp he inherited from Bush (a federal court did that). In return for the controversy and anger Clinton's aroused against us we've gotten — nothing.

Based on the comparison of Jordan to Clinton, you have to conclude that a good enemy is better than a bad friend any day. So, Big Bill, next time you need campaign funds from your "friends" the gays, just remember the first half of your new policy on gays in the military: Don't Ask! ▼

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AIDS CONFERENCE IN BERLIN



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Martin Delaney
Founding Director of Project Inform
Jesse Dobson
Director, Project Immune Restoration
Brenda Lein
Treatment Activist
Joel Thomas
Treatment Activist

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National News



Sierra Club President Michele Perrault

Sierra Club Backtracks On Colorado Boycott

by Jim Emerson

The Sierra Club's "interim" boycott of Colorado to protest against the state's homophobic Amendment 2 may die quietly at the club's next national board of directors meeting in September — unless something drastic happens.

"I'm not planning to do anything unless I hear from other chapters that this really needs to be addressed in some way. A lot depends on what happens in Colorado during the summer," said Sierra Club president Michele Perrault.

Amendment 2, as approved last year by Colorado voters, codifies homophobia as state law in the Rocky Mountain State. This has encouraged Christian zealots in other places to promote discrimination against lesbians and gays.

The issue of whether or not to oppose state sponsored discrimination against gays and lesbians has apparently divided the Sierra Club nationally.

A resolution for the "interim" for a limited boycott of Colorado was approved by the club's national board of directors at the beginning of May, although the vote was split with some directors abstaining or voting against boycotting Colorado.

The boycott apparently doesn't have national support. None of the Sierra Club's 56 chapters outside of the Bay area have voiced any support for making club's boycott of Colorado either permanent or more restrictive until the anti-civil rights law is thrown out. Information about the so-called "interim" boycott has been circulated to all the club's chapters.

As it stands, the boycott is temporary pending "further review," according to the Sierra Club's resolution. This limited boycott prohibits Sierra magazine from accepting new advertising from Colorado's tourism office. It also precludes any national Sierra Club meetings from taking place in the Rocky Mountain State, but specifically exempts recreational trips from any boycott.

Sierra has subsequently stopped accepting new ads from the state's tourism agency. However, the restriction on meetings is mostly symbolic because the Sierra Club

doesn't hold national meetings in Colorado, except occasionally subcommittee meetings, said Gene Coan, director of volunteer development for the Sierra Club.

"Legislation such as Colorado's Amendment 2 runs counter to our view that basic freedoms and human rights should be granted to everyone," said Coan, who quoted from the boycott resolution.

"Outings [meaning excursions, not statements that drag people out of the closet] aren't affected," added Coan. "We decided outings are essential to the club's mission," he said.

The boycott was initially proposed by the Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, which is part of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. With more than 1,000 members, the GLS hiking club is the largest "activities section" within the Sierra Club.

The call for a total nationwide Sierra Club boycott of Colorado was first proposed by GLS member George Wright, an East Bay resident who lives in Richmond. "So far we haven't gotten all of what we wanted," Wright conceded.

Perrault said that no one in Colorado — nor anywhere else outside of the Bay area — has commented on Colorado since the national group discussed and acted on Wright's proposal. "I've heard nothing," Perrault said.

It's too early to make plans for putting the issue on the agenda for the club's next quarterly national meeting in September, Perrault added. It may never come up again and could become irrelevant if Amendment 2 is declared illegal, she said.

According to Wright, only one national Sierra Club director has voiced strong support for a Colorado boycott: Kathy Fletcher who lives in the Seattle area. Fletcher could not be reached for comment by the *Bay Area Reporter*. She wrote the Sierra Club's boycott resolution based on the Wright's idea, which was supported by the local GLS group.

Wright was recently named "volunteer of the month" by GLS, for his spearheading efforts to convince the Sierra Club's national directors to join the national campaign to boycott Colorado. ▼

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By: Jim Kavanaugh

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 174613

The following person is doing business as EVERY WEAR, 32 Walter St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1007. EDWARD BEDARD, 32 Walter St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1007. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date May 13, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed EDWARD BEDARD.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 13, 1993.

June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 1993. L-174613

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175160

The following person is doing business as EYE CONTACT, 75 Lily St., #203, San Francisco, CA 94102. WILLIAM E. MONTGOMERY, 633 Post St., #15B, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date February 1, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed WILLIAM E. MONTGOMERY.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 1, 1993.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 1993. L-175160

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175379

The following person is doing business as CUSTOM SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, 325 Caselli Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114. WILLIAM CARTER, 325 Caselli Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114. STEVEN DITOMASO, 325 Caselli Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date June 3, 1993. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed WILLIAM CARTER.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 3, 1993.

June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 1993. L-175379

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175911

The following person is doing business as ROBINSON-WARD CELLULAR AUDITS, 22 Gardendale, San Francisco, CA 94101. MCKINLEY WARD, 153 Crosswinds Ct., Hercules, CA 94547. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date July 16, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MCKINLEY WARD.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 17, 1993.

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 1993. L-175911

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 952550

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RYAN CARINO JUAN, MATTHEW CARINO JUAN, ERNIE CARINO JUAN, JR. for change of name. The application of RYAN CARINO JUAN, MATTHEW CARINO JUAN, ERNIE CARINO JUAN, JR. has been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that RYAN CARINO JUAN, MATTHEW CARINO JUAN, ERNIE CARINO JUAN, JR. has filed an application proposing that THEIR name be changed to RYAN JUAN CARINO, MATTHEW JUAN CARINO, ERNIE JUAN CARINO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 9th day of August 1993 at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 14th day of June, 1993.

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 1993. L-952550

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 952418

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of TAYLOR NICHOLAS RUBINO-TOWNER for change of name. The application of TAYLOR NICHOLAS RUBINO-TOWNER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that TAYLOR NICHOLAS RUBINO-TOWNER has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to TAYLOR NICHOLAS RUBINO-REYES. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 28th day of July 1993 at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 9th day of June, 1993.

June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 1993. L-952418

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175268

The following person is doing business as BONGOMAN PRODUCTIONS, 895 29th Avenue #203, San Francisco, CA 94121. DANIEL S. FRANKSTON, 895 29th Avenue #203, San Francisco, CA 94121. MARK A. SIEBERT, 381 Arguello Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date June 1, 1993. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed DANIEL S. FRANKSTON.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 1, 1993.

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1993. L-175268

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175323

The following person is doing business as LIN ENTERPRISES, 155 Natoma St., San Francisco, CA 94105. BETTY Y. LIN, 1000 North Point St., #1802, San Francisco, CA 94109. LAWRENCE P. LIN, 245 Prospect St., Sausalito, CA. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date July 19, 1990. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed BETTY Y. LIN.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 2, 1993.

June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 1993. L-175323

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 175710

The following person is doing business as ST. TRADING INTERNATIONAL CO., 2018 19th Avenue Apt. E, Seattle, WA 98112. LOBATCHEV SERGUE, 2018 19th Avenue Apt. E, Seattle, WA 98112. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date June 1, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed LOBATCHEV SERGUE, Director.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 11, 1993.

June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 1993. L-175710

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 951996

IN SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of (BARBARA JOY MILLER) for change of name. The application of (BARBARA JOY MILLER) for change of name, having been filed in the Court, and it appearing from said application that (BARBARA JOY MILLER) has filed an application proposing that (HER) name be changed to (BARBARA JOY). Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department (X-4) on the 8th day of JULY 1993 at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 24th day of MAY, 1993.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 1993. L-951996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 174963

The following person is doing business as LADIES WITH WEENIES (OF SAN FRANCISCO), 930 Hayes St., #11, San Francisco, CA 94117. TAWNY GOLD, 930 Hayes St., #11, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date May 20, 1993. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed TAWNY GOLD.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 20, 1993.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, 1993. L-174963

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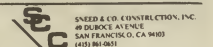
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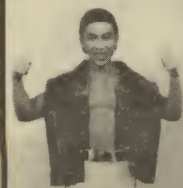
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june 27, 1993

Second of Three Sections

Elinor Armer's Life in Music

Composed and Composing

by Paul Thomason

Bay Area composer Elinor Armer says accepting herself as a lesbian has helped her music. "I feel a lot freer and a lot more fulfilled. I don't think you can be totally free in one area without being free in the other."

Although she had always composed music, and was a well-established music teacher, Armer says, "I didn't take myself seriously as a professional until I was about 30." Part of the reason was growing up in the '50s when composing music was not something women did to earn a living.

"It wasn't until the women's movement got going here and crept into the music scene that I began to see things in a different light and take myself seriously," she explains. "I really have the women's movement to thank for giving me that boost and the inspiration that I, too, was a competent professional. And I also have it to thank for coming out, although that happened even later."

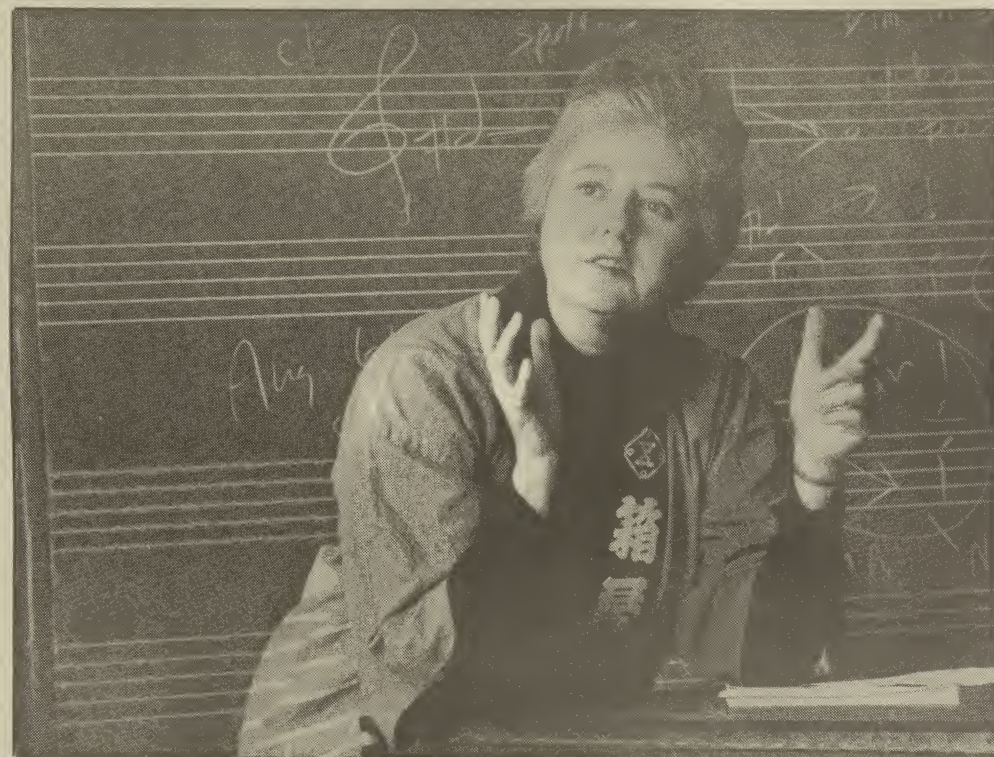
It was becoming involved in a long-distance relationship with a woman conductor that convinced Armer to come out as a gay woman, which then led to a new commitment as a composer.

"For once in my life I wanted to have a committed relationship. I'd been sort of bisexual and uncommitted for most of my adult life, in a way that resembled my lack of professional commitment," she says. "Looking back, I feel there was a very distinct parallel between my sexual commitment and my artistic commitment."

Uttermost Parts

Head of the composition department of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and one of the co-founders of Composers, Inc., Armer continues to compose her own music. She is perhaps best known in the Bay Area for the new eight-part fantasy cycle, "Users of Music in Uttermost Parts," which she and Ursula K. LeGuin just finished.

"Somehow we came up with the idea that music could serve other functions in our society. What if music could be used for money? What if it could be used as jewelry? Somebody suggested it could be used as garbage, but I said that had already



Elinor Armer at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music
(Photo: Kingmond Young)

been done," she adds with a laugh.

"We started with music as food, a choral piece. The chorus was a herd of animals that, instead of giving milk, gave music. Then we had to have music as water, so Ursula wrote a narration about a musical weather cycle since weather is, after all, where water comes from.

"The series involves as many different ways of combining words and music as we could think of — and that includes not putting them together."

The cycle includes a variety of performing forces, most of them choral or chamber groups. But two parts utilize a full orchestra. One of those is "The Great Instrument of the Gegerrets," a 17-minute piece which the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic premiered. The work requires a percussion section of almost 30 instruments, among them a cowbell, a gym whistle and a bicycle wheel. "I am a percussion nut," Armer freely admits.

One of her most deeply moving works is the song cycle *A Season of Grief*, which she wrote in memory of her mother. "I didn't give a damn what anybody thought," she says, "I just wrote it and wrote it the way I wanted to. I wanted the songs to be not about death so much as grieving. I wanted to write about it as one of the most universal experiences. At first I thought about using poems in different languages on the same subject, but I wanted it to be a very personal statement, and I didn't think one singer singing in a bunch of different languages would seem as

if he or she were being very personal about it."

In Memory

A friend suggested she look at Tennyson's *In Memorium* and Armer realized at once she had found some of the texts she needed. After choosing three of Tennyson's poems for the cycle, she was cleaning out her mother's house and found her mother's copy of *In Memorium*.

"Apparently, after the death of my sister about 25 years ago, and then more recently after the death of my father, she had gone through this same Tennyson and marked passages that moved

"My goal in life seems to have been to have the human experience as deeply as possible and to express it in my art."

her. And some of them were the very same ones I had chosen in her memory. It was quite amazing."

To balance Tennyson's



Elinor Armer

(Photo: Kingmond Young)

rather florid language, she chose four poems by Witter Bynner to complete the cycle of seven songs. "They're almost like haiku," Armer says, "very gentle, brief, delicate poems. I put all seven poems together to make a kind of linear progression, from uncontrolled anguish to gradual healing and acceptance and finally a sense of peace. So that writing the cycle, singing it, and listening to it would have a kind of salutary affect."

These days Armer is revealing in a new role, that of composer. In September her partner, a physician in San Francisco, had a baby boy. "It's another dimension to my life I hadn't expected at my advanced age [early fifties] when most women are becoming grandmothers. But I'm really delighted. He's already a percussionist," she says, laughing delightedly.

Asked if there is such a thing as gay music, Armer shakes her head. "I don't think so. People are always asking if there is such a thing as women's music. I think gender politics are evident in music when there are words, but that's because of the words. Human experience is human experience and emotions are emotions. There is grief and rage and love and these happen to everybody in varying degrees. It's just the circumstances that are different, whether you're gay or not, female or male.

"My goal in life seems to have been to have the human experience as deeply as possible and to express it in my art. I've found that I can experience all human emotions most deeply and most freely as a lesbian. But it doesn't make the music itself lesbian. It just makes it deeper." ▼

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Gonzo Brilliance on the Performance Scene

Steele Yourself

by Robert Julian

On his new album, *Goodbye to All That*, Henry Steele sounds like a cross between the early Elton John and David Byrne. He provides his own piano accompaniment, performing songs he wrote himself — songs that include my personal favorite, "The Turd That Murdered Elvis." As an actor, writer, singer, and composer, Steele defies categorization.

A close encounter with mainstream success came early in Steele's career when he began, then abandoned, an album for 20th Century Fox records. This was followed by a stint in a mental asylum where he, naturally, formed a band.

You want to meet Henry? Steele yourself!

•••••

Robert Julian: Henry, your new play, *The Moon*, is part of a trilogy which harkens back to the Old Testament story of Salome. You last appeared in the play *2 Samuel*, 11, and your new album contains the song, "For Jesus," in which you announce, "I'm saving my heinie for Jesus, plugging my butt for J.C." So next time around, when from heaven he comes down, he'll have his second coming in me." Where do all these Biblical shenanigans come from?

Henry Steele: It's really strange. I'm not at all remotely religious, but I'm sort of interested in it. Coming from North Carolina, you're subjected to a lot of shit. For one thing, *The PTL Club* was broadcast just down the road from where I was born. The first verse of "For Jesus," I wrote in the afternoon, after watching the *PTL Club*. Then when Jesse Helms came along, he inspired me to finish the song.

After performing for 30 years, and being over 40, you must have acquired a certain perspective about what your life is about. What have you come up with?

It's a process of simplification for me, it's about getting better. When you get older, you're much less affected by trends, you aesthetic becomes more coherent, defined, and focused. The thing that is in vogue at the moment is much less important to you, you're less concerned with being "with it." You figure out what it is you do, and you do it.

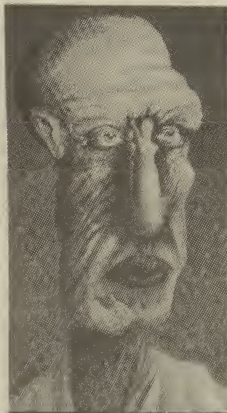


The one, the only, Henry Steele

(Photo: David Guralnick)

You keep doing it in good faith, whether or not you get any recognition.

You write, you perform, you compose, you sing and play the piano — which takes precedence?



"I'm saving my heinie for Jesus, plugging my butt for J.C."

I feel my writing is on the ascendant — plays, songs, prose, whatever. Performing can be incredibly rewarding and it can be incredibly draining. We've just been through an experience with an actress who went ballistic with us, and now I'm doing her part. She left *The Moon* a week before opening and I decided to step in. I love doing it, but it wasn't what I had in mind. I thought, "Okay. From now on, no more plays, just novels. You write them and then you don't have to put them up."

Being gay and being from the South, how did your family handle your sexuality?

I'm sure for a long time it was difficult for them, but in the end, one characteristic of the South is its great pride in the individuality of loved ones and friends. Being gay you become used to being an individual early in life. You have to go that route or sink, and I think Southerners have a deep appreciation for that.

I understand that, financially, you've been in a position where you didn't have to hold down a nine-to-five job. Is that a blessing or a curse?

A blessing. I mean, come on ... As far as ambition in

about wiped me out. It's been a hell of a year, my brother killed himself—it's been hard.

How important is it for you to be recognized for your work?

It's important. It's pretty important. I want it appreciated for what it is.

But is it realistic to expect others to get what it is, when you deal with such complex issues?

You have to trust people's intelligence and do what you can to get people to come to see the work. The underestimation of the intelligence of the public is pretty rife, that's what's constantly going on. But people who see my work understand it.

Are we coming out of the Dark Ages?

Remember the Tony s the year Michael Bennett won for *A Chorus Line*, and he kissed his boyfriend and everyone thought it was so cool? Then AIDS came. I think we got thrown a real curve by AIDS, but gay people responded so magnificently by not being overwhelmed by it, by not letting people beat us back into the bushes. It wasn't handed to us at all.

The album title, *Goodbye to All That*? What are you saying goodbye to?

I don't know, I just decided that was the title. To what? That remains to be seen. ▼

Editor's Note: Henry Steele's play, *The Moon*, plays the Marsh, 1062 Valencia, Thursdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. through June 27. Also at the Marsh, Steele will be performing songs from his latest album, *Goodbye to All That*, on Saturday June 26 at 10:30 p.m. For more information regarding the performances, call (415) 641-1235. *Goodbye to All That* may be purchased at Medium Rare Records on Market Street between Castro and Noe streets.



SF Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens was elected to the bench in June 1990 and took office on January 7, 1991.

Founder of the Lesbian Rights Project, now the National Center For Lesbian Rights, Hitchens told the *Bay Area Reporter* she decided to run for the post because she wanted a change — in her life, and in the judicial system.

"I was about ready to leave the actual practice of law. I was sort of ready to try something different and utilize skills that I'd developed," she said.

The decision to run — against conservative Deukmejian appointee and former prosecutor Jerome Benson — "was almost a last minute decision," Hitchens said.

"I realized the time had come and that I was going to do it when Deukmejian appointed two more men to the bench," she said.

Hitchens said that the race for the seat was a challenge because she was governed by a professional canon of ethics and couldn't comment on issues that she might eventually have to rule on — while candidates for other offices and posts were able to make pronouncements about the issues of choice, domestic partners, and death penalty policy statements to voters. "It was a very odd situation," Hitchens recalled.

But Hitchens, who had "tremendous support from the lesbian and gay community, and some support from the women's community," found that she was able to garner support from other minorities because of her civil rights record and past legal work in the African-American and Asian-American communities.

"At that point in time, no lesbian had yet been elected to a citywide office," she said.

In her first six months as a Superior Court judge, Hitchens presided over civil jury trials, then became a Juvenile Court judge, and this year signed up for a another year in the Juvenile Court system.

Hitchens, who teaches courses in AIDS in the criminal justice system and juvenile delinquency to new judges through the state's Judicial College, said that the experience is an opportunity to teach judges from all over the state — especially conservative communities — about criminal justice issues that impact on the lesbian and gay community. "We bring in ways to increase the level of awareness and sensitivity about the issues that they



Judge Donna Hitchens

"I'm not saying that all gay people want to get married, any more than all gay people want to go into the military, but the option should be there for those who want to."

would never otherwise deal with."

Hitchens believes the best approach to working with juveniles is to stay oriented toward rehabilitation and treatment.

"There are certainly judges that approach the law with a more punitive attitude, rather than with a rehabilitative attitude, but one of the benefits of juvenile law is having many options to address problems," she said.

While Hitchens acknowledges there are occasions when it is appropriate for youth offenders to be incarcerated in California Youth Authority facilities, she also says that there is a difference between serious criminal activity and troubled youth — including those with lesbian or gay identity problems — who "are acting out" and who get snared in the system.

Often in those situations, Hitchens said, foster or group home placement with gay foster parents or staff can give the youths proper role models, love and emotional support, and other care that can turn their lives around.

Also, Hitchens said that there are out lesbian and gay psychologists, therapists, counselors — and probation officers — available for gay youth in trouble, to provide support and affirmation.

An issue just as important to the lesbian and gay community as the ability to join the armed forces, Hitchens says, is the stalled federal civil rights bill that would end discrimination in employment

and housing. She also believes lesbians and gays should be allowed to get married.

"I'm not saying that all gay people want to get married, any more than all gay people want to go into the military, but the option should be there for those who want to," she said.

Hitchens said the right to legal marriage "is accompanied by enormous economic benefit" and believes it is critical that lesbians and gays are no longer cut out of the deal.

It's a long way off, Hitchens says, but she believes that "there will come a time some day when lesbians and gay men — and African Americans and Latinos and everyone — will have equality."

"But, she is quick to point out, "one of the biggest issues I talk to judges about is that equality is not sameness; we need to respect equality but it has to be born out of an appreciation of differences," she said.

And, Hitchens says, there needs to be more of an appreciation of differences in the lesbian and gay community, too.

She says the infighting in the community about political differences "is not unique" to the lesbian and gay community, and that differences in points of view will always exist.

And she adds a cautionary note to those who speak as leaders.

"Where I get concerned is when the good of the community is secondary to the personal ambition of the individual," she said.

Hitchens said that she "has to believe that the lesbian community is making advances and we are going to make a better world for our children." Even when there are times of difficulty, "we have to keep working on a common agenda" as much as possible.

Hitchens said she hopes that because of the strides of the movement that lesbian and gay youth "believe in themselves, and understand that they have incredible potential to make a contribution, and to be healthy and happy."

Hitchens term ends in 1996. "I asked to go out to the juvenile court for one more year. I'm taking it a year at a time. I'm loving it and want to stay," she said. ▼



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(P)lucky Lad(y)

by Jim Provenzano

The posters advertising the shows are straight out of a county fair. That's the compelling quality, the authenticity. At the performance, toes start tapping, people suddenly get the urge to cry or square dance. The reason? It's Patsy Cline, reincarnated by Arturo Galster.

Imagine cocktails in a smoky club, with the clatter of glasses and the chatter of the queer and straight cognoscente simmering in the background, then add the sultry jazz crooning of Chesty Baker, the fictitious widow of long-gone jazz trumpeter Chet. Chesty is another incarnation of Arturo Galster, a regular on the club and cabaret circuit, and a talent this town almost takes for granted.

Galster hails from Philadelphia, where he got his theatrical feet wet in summer stock and school productions. But it was at the San Francisco Art Institute where he learned the finer points of theatre and performance art.

Somewhere on the road to drag acts, while getting known in the tight knit community of club celebrantes, Galster cornered the market on resurrecting one of the gay community's favorite dead divas, country-western singer Patsy Cline. He even starred in a short film as the crooner, who died tragically in a plane crash many years ago.

Performing as Patsy Cline, with her backup band The Memphis G-Spots, Galster has become a favorite at clubs, Gay Freedom Day performances, and street fairs. Recently, he added a new persona to his repertory of endearing songstresses; the sultry, slightly out-of-it Chesty Baker.

Birth of the Blues

Chesty premiered at Paradise Lounge. Originally planning to impersonate Chet Baker for a show, Galster had an accident. "My eye got really badly cut, so I got a wig to cover it up, very Veronica Lake. It worked perfectly. That night my friend Pierre Trudeau (the local fashion designer, "not the former Prime Minister of Canada," as Chesty says in her act) lent me an outfit, and that's how Chesty was born."

Galster's warm comfortable lounge tones evoke his heroes: Patsy, Nina Simone, Peggy Lee, even a little Billie Holiday. But Galster has a way of creating funny moments between his solos — a small eyebrow gesture, a flip of the hair, or getting a piece of his martini olive caught in his teeth. There's never a wide gesture, but his movements are off-kilter enough to

remind you that while the voice may be serious, the heart is having fun.

The Bay Area Reporter talked with Arturo between sets of his nightclub act at Cabaret Du Nord, where he's packing the house every Monday night through June 28.

.....

Has Patsy Cline gone off on another plane trip?

No, she's performing on Gay Freedom Day. We just did a show at DNA. I don't like to do Patsy too often. It's really fun and people really like it, but it makes it more special when you don't do it too often. I'm thinking of doing a lounge version of Patsy Cline.

How long have you been doing character drag? It seems to elevate drag to another level of performance.

When I started doing it, I was kind of careful not to bill myself as a drag queen. Years ago drag wasn't the big phenomenon that it is now. It was kind of a fringe group. I've called myself a performance artist; that's what I studied at school.

It's a good foundation, having that theatre background. It helps you get your technique down, find your light.

Which I still have yet to learn (laughter). The light tonight was pointed at my navel, my chest...

It's kind of appropriate though, that Chesty's act be a little ... off.

Yes, she's like, "Shit, here I am again."

Are there any other characters on the shelf waiting to be born?

Well, Nina Simone, which is part of what Chesty is, but I'd like to do it seriously. There's some other goofy characters. I did a show at Star Bar with Gentry Lane. We called ourselves Las Tuchas. It's kind of a Latino chick that I've been getting into. I like singing in Spanish. That's kind of fun. My goal is to perform at Esta Noche, sing in Spanish, and get away with it.

It's amazing there, the way the drag queens are treated so special, like princesses. They give them more respect than at the mostly white gay clubs, where they're given trashier treatment.

Yeah, we're the court jesters of the white gay scene. But we're getting a lot more respect.

With RuPaul on Arsenio and all?

Yes.



Arturo Galster as Chesty Baker

(Photo: Daniel Nicoletta)

"My goal is to perform at Esta Noche, sing in Spanish, and get away with it."

Are you thinking of recording your music stylings?

I'd like to, but I haven't really taken any steps in that direction.

It would be great to have you pose in a real retro photo, like the Chet Baker photos, with a young hunky shirtless man with a trumpet.

Find those guys! Actually, I fell in love with Chet Baker

— he was so androgynous, his voice. When I first heard him I thought it was a woman. "Who's she?" And then in the photographs, he was this cute young guy. Even in his '60s, he charmed the pants, or bobby socks, off of kids of both sexes. Being in the jazz world and stuff like that, I'm sure he had all kinds of "experiences."

You also perform as yourself, don't you?

I certainly have incorporated elements of other characters into my own work. I'm more relaxed when I have a persona, characters that kind of help me along. I've done Chet Baker straight, so to speak, and I just kind of don't know what to do. I'm not wearing a wig and makeup and nails. You're used to acting and having that well-defined. When you don't have that anymore and it's you, you have to find your own character, your own voice.

What's coming up in your schedule?

I'm hoping to perform at the 181 Club as Chesty. Then over the summer I have a few gigs, and then Wigstock in New York this fall.

I've heard that occasionally you can be found at The Mint doing karaoke?

Not every Wednesday, but every now and then I'll go and others'll be there; Elvis, Herselvis, Justin Bond, Flynn, whoever. It's a riot. We go and practice, it's fun to get up there and make a total ass of yourself. We have a game, Karaoke Roulette. Everyone puts their name on a slip of paper, sticks it in a hat, then everybody writes down a song for someone else and you have to get up and sing it. You don't know what it's going to be. You have to get up there and do your best. It's great. ▼

The Gift of the Gypsies

by Paul Thomason

Being a composer was something Steven White never thought about, it was just something he always did.

"I sat around in grade school and put notes together and liked how they sounded. I never realized I was 'composing.' In high school I wrote for the band and my church choir. It was extremely gratifying to hear what I thought it would sound like — what I heard in my head — was actually the way it sounded. That, more than anything, kept me going," he says.

Today, in addition to his work as a composer, White is the librarian for the San Francisco Opera. He also cues the supertitles during many of the operas by following along with an orchestral score and telling the person running the machine when to change the titles.

It's a far cry from growing up on a farm in eastern Texas.

Another World

"My family is full of very nice people, real salt of the earth, but we have nothing in common. They weren't artistic in any way. I really don't think I was part of that family, I think I was just dropped off by gypsies.

"My dad had a little trouble keeping jobs and for eight months we lived on a little island out on Sabine Lake — the Sabine River divides Texas from Louisiana. Dad was a muskrat trapper. We lived in a one-room, tar paper shack with no heat, electricity, or running water. My mom, brother, and I would sleep in one bed together. In the mornings, Dad would get up and we'd have to stay in bed until he threw back the covers to make sure there were no snakes that had crawled up in the bed with us for the warmth of our bodies.

"Dad would come home at the end of a day of trapping and I remember helping him skin the muskrats. We had a big tub and I'd take the skin and hold it while he pulled the carcass out of it. The guts would fall into the big tub and my little brother and I would play with them, throwing them at each other."

While White was working with the National Symphony in the mid-'80s, the entire orchestra was invited to dinner at the White House. "I sat there, looking around at all of the famous people with whom we were eating dinner and thought about skinning those muskrats," he recalls.

Fortunately, an aunt who taught high school English in Port Arthur opened up the

worlds of music and art for her nephew. "She bought me a record of the '1812 Overture' — I can still see the cover today — and I played it until it was literally smooth, no more grooves at all. And that changed my life. I knew there was something else out there I could live for."

"Dad was a muskrat trapper. We lived in a one-room, tar paper shack with no heat, electricity, or running water."

One of the aspects of his job at the opera which White enjoys the most is being around singers so much. It was through his job that he first met soprano Carol Vaness, for whom he recently wrote *Three Emily Dickinson Songs*.

"When I first heard Carol sing there was something about the spark in her voice, that crystal edge she has, that made me want to write something for her. She's got one of the best senses of humor in the world. Carol is incredibly intelligent and she has an unfailing sense about people and what they're made of."

White was talking with the soprano about new music one day, and she asked him if he had written anything she could use in some upcoming recitals. He had been mulling over some Emily Dickinson songs so he sat down and wrote them in a week. He played them for Vaness, who gave him some tips and criticism. "Carol was absolutely right with everything she said. I incorporated her suggestions, played them for her and she said, 'That's it.'"

Work in Progress

Currently White is completing work on *San Francisco Canticles*, a song cycle for baritone Sanford Sylvan. "I guess every gay artist wants to somehow memorialize a friend they've lost to AIDS, or to show it's something we all want to end. So I'm using seven poems about death. It starts off extremely depressingly with Carl Sandburg's 'Grass,' then slowly but surely it moves to the point that death isn't the ultimate end at all, that there is hope."

One of the composers to whom White often listens is Benjamin Britten. "His music has a certain earthy edge to it, a somberness that people agree speaks of his problems



Steven White

with his sexuality. Maybe that's one reason why his music has always moved me. I was not always comfortable with being gay, and I sympathize with him that way. I'm never bored or disappointed with what I find in his music. "Communication is a big priority for me," he says. "I

have always done things with texts. One way being gay has affected my music is that I will pick texts that are more attuned to that aspect of my life. I'll often pick a gay poet, or something that's gay in orientation."

For White, the most difficult part of being a composer

is simply finding the time. "A friend once said he tried to write one minute of music every day and that no one would ever understand how difficult that was. It's true. For me, it's finding the time, getting the space to be able to do it." ▼



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Paul Wysocki, Leader in Several Key Posts

by Marv. Shaw

Bouncing back vigorously from his defeat in the San Jose City Council race last November, Paul Wysocki, with many years of gay activism to his credit, is building his reputation among a variety of influential groups as a highly capable leader with a substantial following. He spelled out several in a recent conversation with the *Bay Area Reporter*.

One key position with direct relevance to the gay community is his position on the Board of Trustees of the United Way of San Jose. One of his immediate achievements is the decision of the United Way to allocate funds to the gay community center in San Jose — this after a year-long study to determine the needs of the gay community in that city.

Accompanying that measure is his initiative in barring discrimination against gays and lesbians within the agency and among the clientele and employees of any group affiliated with the United Way.

More controversial and potentially of great influence is his insistence on the United Way board that the Boy Scouts of America not receive funding while their prohibition against gay scouts and scoutmasters is in force. Wysocki points to the Willow Glen troop in particular as one group within the BSA which is daring to go along with his position and defy the national charter on this policy.

"This troop has had strong criticism from the national headquarters, but they are holding steady. I think of it as typical of the enlightened attitude I find repeatedly in the San Jose area," Wysocki stated.

Analyzing his election defeat simply, Wysocki said, "I made my attempt backwards. Most people running for political office build their reputations broadly and then run on them. I was really unknown outside the gay community."

Correcting this situation now, Wysocki is building coalitions and tapping into influential groups. Among these are labor unions, the Affordable Housing Network Board of Trustees, The Ryan White Care Consortium of Santa Clara County and the County AIDS Planning Advisory Committee.

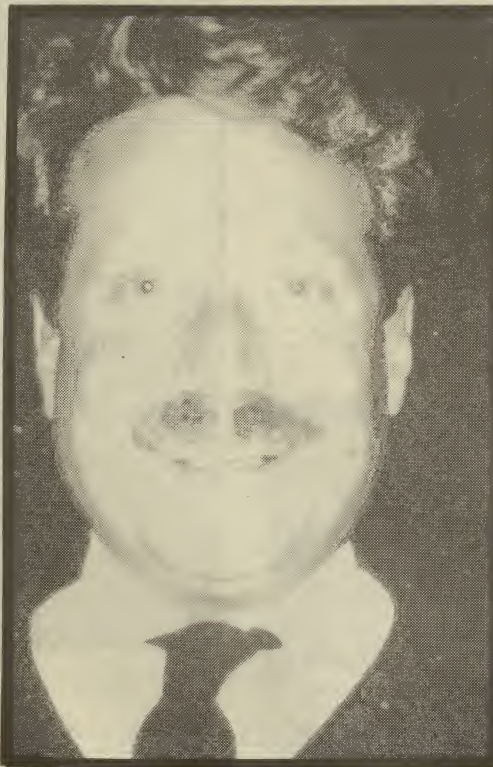
Wysocki is currently vice chairperson of the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission and the San Jose Civil Service Commission. Most directly relevant to the gay community is his position as board president of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights

Commission.

Very influential from the perspective of the personnel and finances involved is his position as chairperson of the Police and Fire Departments' Retirement System. Currently administering a fund of \$750 million, Wysocki is proposing to his counterpart in the organization comprising all other city employees that their combined worth of \$1.5 billion be re-organized into a more secure system.

"I am the first person not a policeman or a fireman to be chosen for this job," Wysocki pointed out. "My being gay has been no problem. I present the issues, guide the discussion and help shape the decisions in such a way that they applaud when the meeting concludes. And this is with men and women who are middle-aged and elderly."

"I speak their language," Wysocki explained as the reason for his success. Just as likely, he conceded, is his volunteer work as a sensitivity trainer with law enforcement groups for the last three years.



Paul Wysocki

Wysocki's present dominant vocational pursuit is professional fundraiser and adviser for non-profit agencies, though he is still a li-

censed real estate broker. It is in these roles where he most demonstrates his operational philosophy.

"While I am always out

there as an openly gay man with explicit social objectives, I concentrate on using a conciliatory strategy to achieve a win-win outcome," he said.

For his political future, Wysocki has his eye on 1996. "Because of the term limits now in force, there will be many open offices, and I would try for one on either the county or state level," he predicted.

**"We can be leaders!
Many more
gays and
lesbians will
be elected
in the next
five years."**

On the whole picture of gays in politics, Wysocki is ebulliently optimistic: "The situation is very favorable. We can be leaders! Many more gays and lesbians will be elected in the next five years. With developments such as the gays in the military issue, the nation is being forced to look at us to see beyond the stereotypes and recognize how mainstream we are. The '90s will produce our golden opportunity — and I intend to take advantage of that!" ▼

Akaya Windwood, Alameda County Human Relations Commissioner

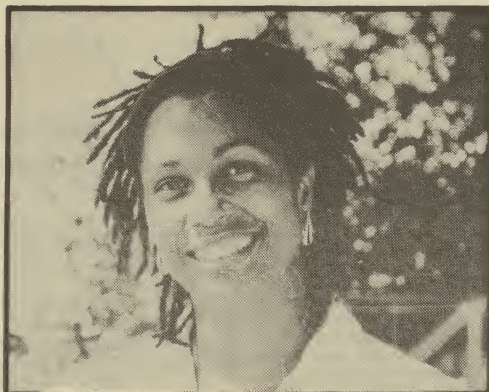
by Samuel R. Cacas

Though relatively new to the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, Akaya Windwood is familiar with homophobia and racism.

Windwood was appointed to the commission in February by Alameda County Supervisor Mary King. Several years ago, while growing up in San Bernardino County, Windwood was taunted by several youths at a 7-11 store.

"They yelled anti-gay and anti-African American epithets at me," she told the *Bay Area Reporter* during a recent interview. "This impacted me psychologically in a negative way." She added that the experience left her feeling "dehumanized."

Windwood said she often reflects on this experience in her present position as coordinator of the speakers bureau for Berkeley-based Pacific Center for Human Growth, an organization which provides counseling and other services for gay and lesbian hate violence victims. After



Akaya Windwood

many years of giving presentations to schools throughout the area, Windwood said she is "amazed by the anger manifested by many individual students who have expressed anti-gay comments like, 'I'll beat you up if I see you on the street.'"

Windwood said such comments reflect institutional reality throughout the county, particularly in some school districts where her message against homophobia is not welcome. For example, she noted that "Alameda County

has anti-discrimination laws on the books against racial and sexual orientation discrimination, but there's currently no domestic partners policy."

While Windwood noted that some elected officials reflect such bias, she noted some, such as Supervisors Keith Carson and Mary King, "want to make Alameda County safe for everyone."

As an appointed official, Windwood advises her constituents to get involved. "Never underestimate the power of a phone call," she said. "Elected and appointed officials are there to serve our needs."

"We need to take ourselves and our experiences more seriously when we are victimized," Windwood said. "Until we do, the powers that be won't take us seriously."

As the newest sitting member of the commission and also a member of the Alameda County Hate Violence Prevention Project, Windwood intends to make sure that others get involved. ▼

Richard Labonte
Keeps Us Reading

Art Energizer

by Roberto Friedman

The vitality of a city's arts and literary scene really comes down to the continued efforts of a handful of people who make books or art their life. For San Francisco gay writers and readers, Richard Labonte has long been one of these people. Manager of A Different Light bookstores here and in West Hollywood, Labonte is one of the founders of the stores, a venture which began with a bookstore in Silverlake in 1979. I spoke with him on the back patio of A Different Light one hot June morning.

•••••

Roberto Friedman: In the five years you've been here at the store in San Francisco, have you seen the bookstore climate change?

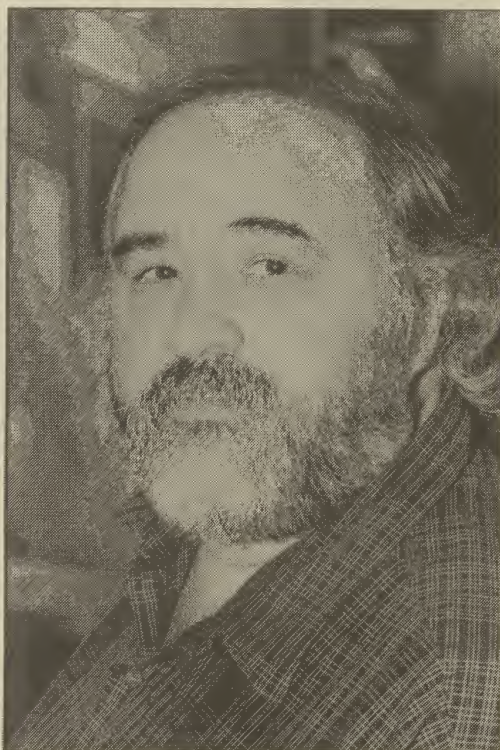
Richard Labonte: I think it's changed along with the Castro neighborhood changing. When we opened the store in '87, there was still a bit of a doldrums here. The bookstore brings a lot of people into the neighborhood. If you're not invested in clothes or bars, except for the energy of the Castro, there was not a lot of reason to come. So I think the bookstore has helped the Castro grow, and at the same time, we've grown because the neighborhood has become more a community again. It's an interesting ebb and flow — it's much less political now than it was two years ago.

Is San Francisco a reading town?

Absolutely. Of the three stores (NYC, LA, and SF), San Francisco has the highest sales. Plus, it's a young reading city. I see new waves of teenagers, early twenties, coming in to buy books.

I'm always surprised by the amount of genre fiction available: lesbian mysteries, gay sci-fi ... Is that a big part of sales?

Ten years ago, there was very little of that — mystery or science fiction or gothic or horror — available, except for romance, which is a genre unto itself. Our science fiction and especially mystery sections are two of our most popular ones. The tastes of gay and lesbian readers are no less trashy than anybody else's. A large part of the growth of lesbian and gay publishing is due to the fact that, instead of buying John



Richard LaBonte, shining a different light on literature

(Photo: Marc Geller)

LeCarre, one can now buy a Michael Nava book; I don't want to compare Katherine Forrester to Agatha Christie, but you see what I mean. But the literary books also sell extremely well. We sell as many copies of *Giovanni's Room* or *Maurice* as we did five years ago. There are literary classics which sell strongly year after year.

What about the small presses? Do they lose out to all of the publicity power of the larger houses?

Small presses are worried about that, but it hasn't happened yet. In some ways, Naiad Press, which publishes 25 lesbian novels a year, and Alyson Publications, which publishes between 25 and 30 gay books a year, are as big as the gay and lesbian titles of St. Martin's or Doubleday. Even smaller presses such as Firebrand or Spinster's, which do between five and 15 books a year, their books don't get overlooked because there's a lot of reader loyalty. It's interesting to me that there is only one press in the country of any significance that is solely gay male oriented, and that's Gay Sunshine/Leyland Publications. Whereas there are 15 strong lesbian/women's presses. A lot of gay books that are being published by mainstream houses are male books. But I don't think small presses are threatened at all. My sense is the market hasn't been glutted yet for good books.

I'm always amazed at the readings you have here at the store — how smoothly they go considering what a small space it is. Have you run into problems?

I wasn't here for the

Queer in America reading we had recently, but the staff told me that the crowd was almost back to the cash register. We sacrifice some sales when we have big events, but I think it's worth it just to have the author and the readers meet each other.

What did you think about the Lammies this year?

It was the first year when I thought every winner was actually a good book. And I do think that people have started to pay attention to who the winners are. My staff said people had already come in Saturday morning (after the awards ceremony in Miami Friday night) asking for the winners.

It's our own little Emmys or Oscars. How come San Francisco has lost out on the OutWrite conferences? To Boston, of all places?

I think mainly because *Outweek* magazine folded. A lot of the people who did the first two would have been happy to pick it up after Boston, so that it alternated East Coast/West Coast, which was the original plan, but with the demise of *Outweek*, there just wasn't the core to put it together. That's why it's happening in October this year, again in Boston. I hope it will come back.

It was very energizing to gay writers here.

It was. Something that we're going to do in January, on a much smaller scale, will be a writer's weekend, with panels and readings, maybe a dinner and award ceremony.

What are you reading now?

Last night I was reading Bernard Cooper's book, *A Year of Rhymes*, which won't be out until late August, a superb novel. I'm reading a new conservative *After the Ball* kind of book, fascinating to read, even though I don't agree with a lot of it, because there aren't a lot of those books around. I'm reading *Alma Rose*, which is a Seal Press novel, and the new Joseph Hansen book, a fictional memoir of his growing up in Pasadena in the '30s and '40s, quite good. ▼

"My sense is the market hasn't been glutted yet for good books."
— Richard Labonte

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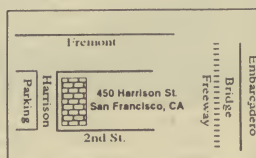
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Gone but not Forgotten: HUD's Roberta Achtenberg

by Karen Ocamb

It was 2:30 p.m., Pacific time, Monday, May 24: the U.S. Senate clock ticked away as the clerk called out name after name registering votes on the historic nomination of open lesbian Roberta Achtenberg to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Around the country lesbians and gays, glued to C-SPAN, tallied the vote and watched Senator Dianne Feinstein caucus with a hand-wringing Senator Barbara Boxer — now dubbed St. Barbara by some at the Human Rights Campaign Fund for her valiant and skilled defense of Achtenberg against conservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms.

In the end Achtenberg was confirmed, 58 to 31, with five Southern Democrats crossing over to vote 'no' with Helms and 13 Republicans jumping into the 'yes' bloc.

It was historic — Achtenberg would, in fact, be leaving San Francisco and her seat on the Board of Supervisors to go to Washington. Was there one lesbian or gay in America who didn't celebrate at that moment?

Well, yes, at least one: Achtenberg herself. She missed the televised suspense, sequestered in her apartment in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in touch with the proceedings only through her San Francisco aide Alex Clemens.

"My job was to be ready and able to respond at any moment," Achtenberg said in a phone interview from her San Francisco office two days later. "By the time it was time for roll call, we knew we would win handily. I suppose you never know for sure, but the count had been done over and over throughout the day and we were certain quite late in the day."

Clemens called Achtenberg after the vote, enabling her to hear Senate Majority leader George Mitchell pronounce her confirmation.

"I was elated," she said, acknowledging that she jumped up and down with joy. Then as the "cheering throngs" called, "I felt very pleased and vindicated."

Achtenberg was filled with praise for her Senator supporters, chief among them Boxer — "she deserves every accolade that can be bestowed upon her" — Feinstein — "she did a stupendous job" — and Michigan Democrat Dan

Riegle — "I will always be indebted to him for his incredible demonstration of support."

She said they knew that Kennedy would be in Massachusetts to present a "Profiles in Courage" award, but he was prepared to return if the vote was close. They also knew that other supporters — Democrats Bradley and Krueger, and Republicans Danforth and Jeffords — would not be present.

Achtenberg's "great sense of relief" at the 27-vote margin of victory underscores the weekend and the day before the vote, conservative Christian groups flooded the Congressional switchboard. Calls ran 100-1 against confirmation, according to HRCF spokesperson Gregory King, countered by 9,000 mailgrams sent through HRCF's Speak Out Campaign.

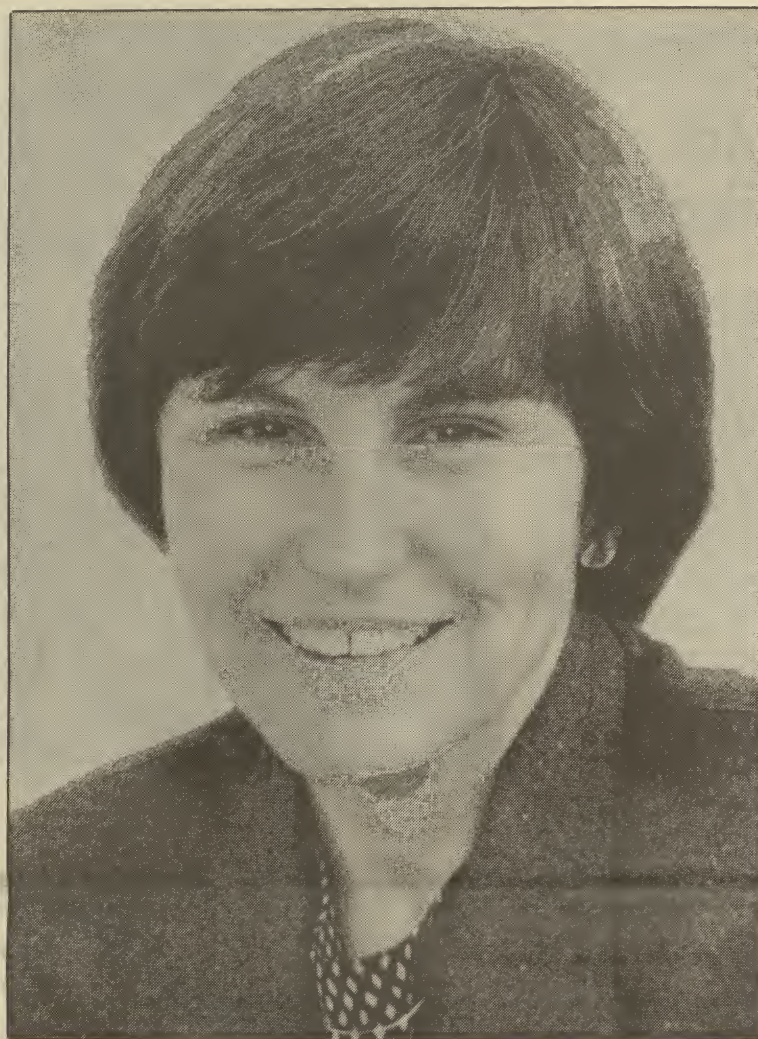
In addition to the fundamentalists' calls, each senator was sent a videotape of the harsh battle Helms waged up to the last minute. Over the 1992 San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, showing Achtenberg and partner Judge Mary Morgan kissing, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. Critics charged that Achtenberg is an "exhibitionist" and a bad parent (of her son with Morgan, Benji), as well as a gay-rights extremist who attacked the Boy Scouts.

The conservative opposition also threatened Senators up for reelection. "If any member of this Senate thinks this vote will go unnoticed by their constituents back home," Helms warned, "they may find out otherwise." The pressure helped boost the GOP opposition from 20 votes the day before.

But other Republicans opponents, such as Bob Dole of Kansas, sought to distance themselves from Helms's strident attacks. "No doubt we should show tolerance and respect for those among us who are gay," Dole said in pre-vote comments. "But showing tolerance and respect should not force us to embrace an ideological agenda most Americans do not accept."

Dole took his share of swipes, focusing particularly on Achtenberg's proposal to have the city withdraw its money from the Bank of America because of its stand on the Boy Scouts, an organization that refuses to admit homosexuals.

"Some might call these tactics heavy handed ... even borderline extortion," Dole said of Achtenberg's proposal. "We're not talking about



Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Roberta Achtenberg.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

"I hope that it will be a turning point so that others can put themselves forward and not be subjected to the level of indignity that I was."

some youth gang, the Bloods and Crips ... we're talking about the Boy Scouts!"

For several hours early in the day Achtenberg supporters could count on just over 40 votes, roughly ten shy of those needed for confirmation. Fence-sitters such as Kentucky Democrat Wendell Ford needed constant reassurance from Boxer and Feinstein. Finally, votes from conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans such as New York's Alfonse D'Amato and Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas put Achtenberg over the top.

It was a hard-won victory. For weeks Achtenberg had withstood an unrelenting smear campaign, highlighted by Helms's now-famous "mean-spirited ... damn lesbian" remarks for which Riegle and Illinois Senator Carol Mosely Braun publicly took Helms to task.

Achtenberg was philosophical about the attacks. "The only sense I could possibly make of it was that it was not about me. It was about the views that some people hold about who we must be as people," she said. "It would be disingenuous to of me to say that ... the accusations had no effect on me and obviously I felt them more keenly because they were using my name."

"But since I know in my heart that I have used every ounce of my waking energy in my life trying my very best not to be mean or narrow or any of the others things I was accused of being, it just did not ring true. In fact it was so discordant with not only what I believe to be the reality of my life, but [of] anybody who knows me or anybody who's willing to examine the public

record of my life. It just rang hollow to most people."

As to her "flaunting" her homosexuality by kissing Morgan during the Freedom Day Parade, Achtenberg laughs. "I've been a lawyer for almost 20 years," said the 42-year-old former Supervisor. "I take seriously [my duties as] an officer of the court which means that I have a special obligation to conduct myself in a dignified way ... and that's what I've always tried to do."

"For people who believe that if you are gay or lesbian, you're not entitled to a most modest demonstration of your affection toward other human beings, then reason and argument are not going to encourage them to see it in a different way. My record stands for itself. I've done the best job that I know how to do. And the overwhelming victory that we enjoyed on the floor of the United States Senate was a vindication of that and of the view that decent people across the nation hold: that I am a respected public servant, that I am entitled to serve without respect to my sexual orientation."

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page)

Now that Achtenberg has resigned her \$24,000-a-year post as San Francisco Supervisor she has, with the concurrence of HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, gotten to work on "re-examining and reorganizing" her enforcement division. (Incidentally, for those younger lesbians and gays who are interested in getting into politics, but who read her San Francisco salary with dismay, her new job comes with a \$115,700 annual salary.)

The reorganization at HUD includes instituting a new mortgage insurance enforcement division inside the office of Title 8 enforcement. "We will be dealing with insurance red-lining [an illegal practice of lenders who refuse to consider loans within certain geographic areas and neighborhoods], which has not been dealt with through my division before."

In conjunction with the bank regulating office of Comptroller of the Currency, her office will "root out mortgage-lending discrimination," a violation of Title 8. It will also create a uniform set of guidelines, which she hopes will result in a "lessening of the discrimination that's been endured, in particular, among people of color" in housing rentals and purchasing. According to Achtenberg, it is a "severe" issue, and one that is worthy of "special attention." She will oversee about 700 federal employees and intends to visit HUD offices around the country — including post-riot Los Angeles — to "get the lay of the land."

It's something many people might find difficult, but Achtenberg is anxious to begin. And, she says, she is "glad this is over," referring to the con-

firmation process. She told the B.A.R. that her strength throughout came from her naivete, her family, her "faith in God and the good people of the nation."

"We stuck together," she said, adding she was "gratified" by everybody who took the floor in her defense, as well as her other supporters.

"We're not talking about the Crips and Bloods," said Senator Bob Dole. "We're talking about the Boy Scouts!"

African-American church leaders told her "how very significant it was to them to watch me stand up to intolerance. We want to stand up to that kind of attack and we want to stand up to it together to show — as was shown — that when we do that, we can prevail. I just feel pleased I could have been a part of something like that and I'm hoping that it will set a tone."

But as Achtenberg prepares for her new duties, she is aware that victory does not mean she has escaped scrutiny. "This doesn't end it," Eric Ueland, spokesperson for the Senate Republican Policy Committee, told the *Chronicle*.

"We'll keep a pretty close eye on her."



President Bill Clinton with renowned "damned lesbian" Roberta Achtenberg (Photo: Karen Ocamb)

"I have a special obligation to conduct myself in a dignified way and that's what I've always tried to do."

Despite the tacit threat, Achtenberg is optimistic. "It's my hope that it will never be quite as bad again. I hope that it will be a bit of a watershed, a turning point, so that others can put themselves forward with the hope and expectation that they will not be subjected to level of indignity that I was subjected to. I don't think that they could mount the same kind of campaign of hate and ignorance that they were able to mount against me the next time — because I think people saw through it." ▼



Roberta Achtenberg and son Benjie.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Supervisor Susan Leal: A Moderate Bridge-Builder

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco's newest member of the Board of Supervisors, Susan Leal (pronounced Lay-AL), hadn't planned on making a bid for the job when Bill Clinton tapped Roberta Achtenberg for a federal post. She was still settling into her first year as vice president on the operations side of the healthcare management firm COMP-CARE — after spending years "on the road," consulting with corporations all over the country — so she already had her hands full. But eventually, she says, a few friends began putting a bug in her ear about the possibility, and she was intrigued.

"Basically, some of my friends came to me about five months ago and said, 'would you consider this?'" Leal told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Bevan Duffy was one of those friends, Leal said. "He's one of my life-long friends. I met him when I was in student government in Berkeley 20 years ago. He's openly gay

and has been involved in a lot of political things in Washington and Los Angeles. He moved up here about six months ago."

Leal said that she decided to test the waters, to see if there was any interest or support for her as a candidate.

"I felt I had to start spending a lot of time getting out, getting a better sense of what was happening in the community," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I began meeting people and found there was a lot of interest and there was some support for me. After a few weeks, I realized that the support was serious and decided to go for it," Leal said.

Leal describes herself as a "team player" and said that because she "has a clean slate" she can listen to the concerns of her constituents without bias and can seek consensus and compromise as she grapples with constituent needs and the serious problems of service cutbacks caused by the estimated \$200 million city deficit.

"I'm trying to keep an

open mind as I meet with different individuals and groups. There are different alliances, and one group may be more progressive and one may be more conservative, but there are common threads of concern that cut across them all," she said.

Leal says that she believes this year's budget, although it is the worst in the city's history, is actually less serious than what the city faces next year.

And, she says, balancing the budget is not going to be possible "without a lot of pain."

"We're in the 15th year of Proposition 13 [the so-called "property tax revolt"]. The deal is that Proposition 13 has come home to roost. Combined with the economic downturn in the state, there's no way we can balance the budget without a lot of pain all the way around," she said.

Leal said that another problem is that San Francisco is losing jobs — "30,000 in the last five years" — which results in a drain on the city's



Supervisor Susan Leal

(Photo: Judi Parks)

revenue base.

Businesses and unions might be willing to compromise on their demands for no new revenue enhancements and higher wages, if they realize that the city is committed to streamlining a cumbersome and often inefficient bureaucracy, Leal said.

The budget dust hasn't settled — and won't until early July, Leal predicts. Until then, the players will be "horse trading and dealing all the way up to the last minute," she said, a political process she knows firsthand from her experience writing the state's healthcare budget in the early 80s, when she served as a consultant to the state Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

Tough enough for controversy

"I'm a political moderate, so that's going to color where I'm going to lean on issues," Leal told the B.A.R. But while she may be a moderate, she isn't the type to shy away from controversy — whether it's about a tough budget decision, disagreeing with a union about its wage demands, or commenting on national lesbian and gay political issues: she acknowledged that she's bothered by Barney Frank's recently proposed compromise on the gays in the military issue.

"I'm troubled by that. I don't really really want to express my perspectives on national issues, but I have to tell you that a lot of my friends were troubled and I was also troubled by Barney Frank's action," she said.

A clear indication of why Leal is troubled, though, is integral to understanding the

43-year-old, single San Francisco native who lifts weights and does step aerobics in her spare time.

"I wasn't clear that he had talked with those who were working on the issue. That's why I was troubled. I'm not sure I agree with his compromise," Leal said.

She worried that the Frank compromise leaves people like Zoe Dunning, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and out lesbian who has been drummed out of the U.S. Navy, "hanging in the wind."

And, although she says that it may not be a popular point of view among moderates, she said she took exception to a recent media commentary linking San Francisco's economic woes with the influx of undocumented refugees and illegal aliens "was scapegoating."

"That offends me, that's my point of view, that's my real gut feeling, it's discrimination and prejudicial," she said.

Leal said that she finally decided to make the successful bid for her seat on the Board of Supervisors because she knows about the problems facing San Francisco, from the need for Charter reform to restructuring the city's health care service delivery system, because she sees herself as someone who can contribute to solving them, and because she is, in her words, "a bridge builder."

"That's what I've been good at over the years. I feel very privileged. My experience and business background gives me a good perspective to help the city," she said. ▼

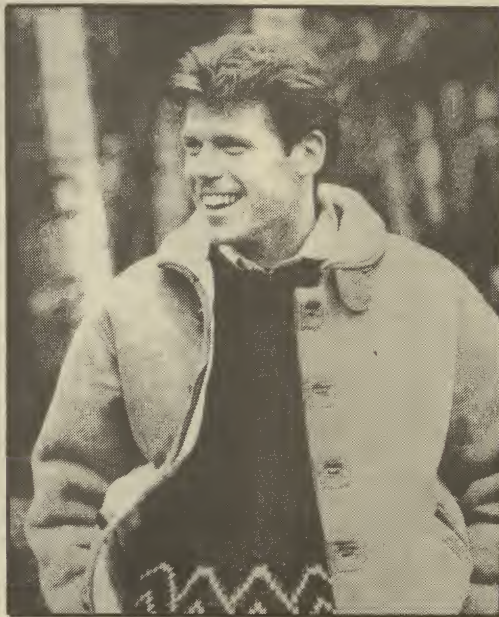


Photo at March on Washington by Doug Emerson

A Taste for Living

by Robert Julian

With an interest in spiritual healing and a career as a fashion model, Greg Cassin could be the quintessential prototype for the queer '90s, something of a cross between Vanna White and Oral Roberts. But Cassin's serious and long-term dedication to The Healing Circle, which he began over four years ago, qualifies him for serious consideration as an alternative community activist. The Healing Circle, which continues to meet Thursdays at 8 p.m. at 60 Brady Street, has led Cassin to mount a campaign to establish a San Francisco Center for Living, similar to centers that already exist in Los Angeles and New York.



Greg Cassin as White Flower Day centerfold

a start up board of directors. Our first fundraiser, with Marianne Williamson, was very successful. We brought in almost \$20,000. Now we're building a sound foundation in order to get the business stuff handled so we can use the human resources effectively and responsibly. That's a high priority for us.

Do you want to buy a building?

I want to provide services. If it works business-wise to buy a building, we will. Right now we just want to lease a space that will allow us to provide services.

I feel that telling the truth is always incredibly empowering.

Do you have a timeline for start-up?

We have a goal to be providing services by early this winter.

What kinds of people and skills do you envision coming together under the umbrella of the center?

When someone is affected by a life-threatening illness, whether it be the patient or the caregiver, they embark on a powerful journey. It's not only a physical journey, it's an emotional journey that affects all of our lives. I want the center to be a place where people come to receive hope, to be inspired, and to be educated. I see the center in Manhattan as a place for choice, and I want our center to have as many different dimensions as there are people and needs.

I want the center to provide services for those who are undergoing a Western modality of treatment, for those who have chosen holistic therapies, or for someone who has chosen a combination of options. I want there to be support for all choices. I've met people for whom many approaches have led to healing. I want this to be a place where we expand our definition of healing, and for me true healing is in the heart. ▼

Editor's Note: For more information about the San Francisco Center for Living, call (415) 252-1666.

Robert Julian: What does a "Center for Living" do?

Greg Cassin: It's a place which will provide support programs for people facing life-threatening illnesses of all kinds. For caregivers, women with breast cancer, HIV-infected children and adults — offering, among other things, daily classes in meditation and relaxation, yoga and massage. A lot of the work to be done at the center is work that's been going on underground for years with AIDS and cancer as "alternative treatments." Many of these things the medical establishment is now researching, and discovering their positive results.

I know that, in spite of your work in healing, you still continue to do some modeling. What's the best work you've done as a model?

The best work, beside traveling and working all over Europe, was the work I did with local clients like Macy's and Mervyn's. These were people who gave me a career here — a life and insurance — and income that paid my bills while allowing me to do the real work I wanted to be doing, especially after I found out I was HIV-positive. When I went public with my HIV status, by appearing in Peter Adair's film, *Absolutely Positive*, I got phone calls from the commercial broadcasting department of Macy's and other clients who offered their love and support. They said if there were anything they could do for me I was to let them know.

Are the healing circle and the film related?

No. I was doing the healing circle before the film came along. A friend who knew I was out as HIV-positive called me and asked if I

wanted to be in Peter Adair's next film. I remember right after I started the healing circle, people kept asking me what I was going to do next. I kept saying I had this feeling I was going to be interviewed in some sort of public forum, although I didn't know what, that would bring me forward in a bigger way. Without even making this connection, I said yes to the film and then, in the middle of filming, I realized that was it. I said to Peter, "Here I am, a model who's supposed to be representing heterosexual society and I'm coming out as a gay HIV-positive man. This is going to kill my career."

But I thought if that was going to happen, then something else would come along. I thought about all the Hollywood stars I had criticized for staying in the closet. I decided if I wasn't willing to come out, then who would? That was very powerful for me. I came out in that movie like I came out to my parents, with the same attitude. I was willing to go with the truth, regardless of the potential consequences. I feel that telling the truth is always incredibly empowering.

When did the idea for the center come along?

I had been going back to New York to visit my folks — actually there was a workshop in New York for the Manhattan Center for Living that was for HIV-positive men. I asked my parents to attend this workshop with me, and they did. That was my introduction to the Center for Living, in 1988. For the next few years, I visited the Manhattan Center and watched it grow into this alive community center, full of people coming together to volunteer in whatever way they could. I started seeing what a powerful place for love and healing it was — a place of complete support for those who were on their way out, close to death, as well as those who were struggling to maintain their being. About

six months ago, something happened that made me say this is the time for a San Francisco Center.

We're working on incorporation right now, as well as 501 (c) 3 exemption. We have

KQED Channel 9 Presents

In Celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month

The Changer: A Record of the Times

All Out Comedy

Lives in the Balance: The Lesbian and Gay Movement of the '90s

In the Life: March on Washington

Wednesday, June 30, beginning at 7:30pm

KQED TV9



Steve Coulter, of the Library Commission

Is yours a City, County, or State Position?

City and County. I'm also on the Private Industry Council, a public board that handles federal job training for the disadvantaged.

Were you appointed or elected to the Library Commission?

I was originally appointed by Mayor Agnos and then reappointed by Jordan.

Mayor Feinstein originally appointed me to Planning Commission. Prior to that, I was an elected State Assemblyman in Nevada.

How Long have you been with the Library Commission?

Since 1988.

What is your party affiliation?

Democrat.

Any comments on your party?

None. I've been appointed

and elected without any problems.

What is your age?

I'm 45.

What age were you when you came out?

1988, politically. Socially I've pretty much always been out. I came out politically to avoid the "whisper campaign."

How old were you when you entered politics?

I was 28.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

It took me eight years to get elected. I imagine the gay issue had something to do with that, but I had an ambitious plan. I was tired of Nevada politics. But in the system being gay and representing those issues, there is the "glass ceiling" that caused me not to seek higher office. I didn't want to continue if I

could not be openly gay.

In the context of San Francisco politics, that "glass ceiling" is not necessarily there.

Who are your political heroes, and why?

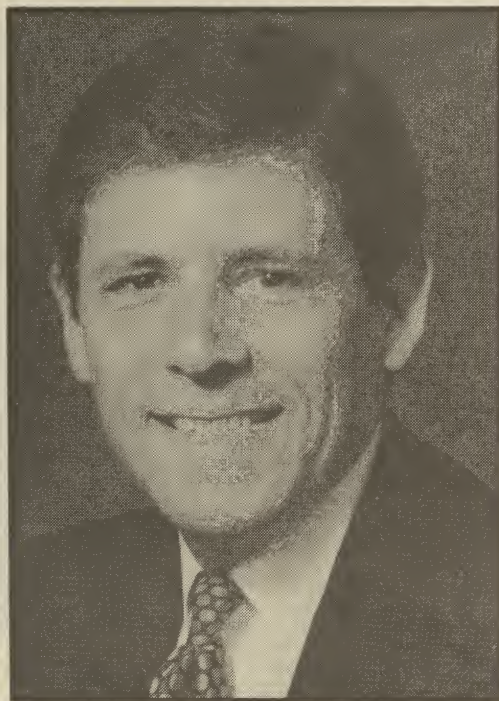
No one in particular. Any gay or lesbian who goes for it.

How do you see your role as a role model?

It's there just by virtue of the appointment. I take what I do seriously and do a good job. I have been President of the Library Foundation and have worked closely on the new Library Project, particularly the Gay and Lesbian Center for the new library. I think those involvements stand out for any other gay and lesbian to aspire to. You're visible when you work on public projects; it's important to do well.

Do you have a lover; how much are they involved as a political spouse?

Yes and we are out as a



Steve Coulter

couple, socially and politically.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent victory?

None directly because I've been in politics for awhile, but the visibility of the gay and lesbian block certainly is having a ripple effect on appointments and elections here and elsewhere.

What issues have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

The Gay and Lesbian Center at the new Library. It will be the first research-depth archive of Gay and Lesbian history in the world. We will have documents and artifacts dating back to the 1800s. It's exciting to work on a project of such vital importance to gay and lesbian survival. Our history must be preserved and archived so scholars can study and research.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

They are moving forward. Clinton is brave and courageous for stimulating the dialogue.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

We must get the government out of the business of "institutionalized homophobia." Civil rights is the issue; it's broader than just the military issue.

The military issue is addressing the most homophobic part of the government and it's time for a societal change and that can only be accomplished by putting the focus on civil rights and getting the government out of the homophobia business.

What do you think the ultimate

"Our history must be preserved and archived so scholars can study and research."

mate goal should be for the gay community?

For gays and lesbians to be totally incorporated into the culture and society.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

Tension is good. Visibility is important, and cutting-edge groups are necessary because they make the center look more reasonable.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

There's nothing to be ashamed of.

What would you like to say to straight people?

Gays and lesbians are productive members of the system; we are not all good and we are not all bad, like people in general. We are here and we have the right to be, so Get Used To It!

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

The model for the world that San Francisco has become; a bastion of freedom for gay and lesbian people and a remarkable community when you consider things like the way we have fought AIDS here. The March on Washington was a very special pinnacle, I think. ▼

I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD TO JOIN MY SISTER, CAROLE MIGDEN, AS A MEMBER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.



MAYOR JORDAN HAS GIVEN ME A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR CITY. I PLEDGE TO GIVE IT MY BEST.

Supervisor Susan Leal
City and County of San Francisco

Ken Yeager, San Jose Evergreen College Trustee

by Marv. Shaw

Just six months into his four-year term as a trustee of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District, Ken Yeager, the first openly gay official elected in Santa Clara County, has racked up an impressive record of achievement for its two colleges and for the gay community.

"It's beyond my wildest dreams for this early in my term," stated the boyish Yeager in talking to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

First, he persuaded the college district to withdraw its funds on deposit at the Bank of America, which had reneged on its original declaration to stop donating to the Boy Scouts of America after that organization rejected gay scouts and scoutmasters.

Shortly thereafter, he helped form a gay and lesbian staff association, which had 15 members at its last meeting. Keying into a district practice to hold "faculty improvement days," Yeager got one of these sessions to focus on an in-service training in sensitivity for gay and lesbian students and their issues. "It was a well attended session," Yeager emphasized.

Yeager was instrumental in the formation of a gay and lesbian student association, which held its first meeting in May.

On May 11, he invited to the campus for a speech Keith Meinhold, the gay sailor who is fighting for his position against a Navy attempt to eject him. Over 150 people attended, and the event made the front page of the *San Jose Mercury News*, the region's largest daily newspaper.

Very soon, Yeager expects a favorable report to come from the district's certificated personnel department on domestic partners arrangements for employees. "We are overcoming roadblocks, mainly by showing that the financial

matters are not the added expenses that some originally anticipated," he exulted.

Again bucking resistance brought about by budget cuts, Yeager was able to show that inclusion of gay and lesbian books and periodicals was justified within even the reduced allotments.

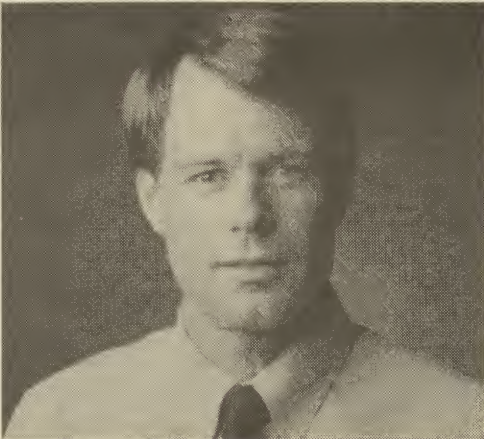
Yeager's most recent accomplishment was the establishment of an AIDS Awareness Day, when the County Health Department brought a team to the two campuses and performed HIV testing. That service has now become an ongoing activity and will be held every two weeks.

Having laid all that groundwork, Yeager stated that his efforts for the foreseeable future will be devoted to strengthening these beginning measures by gathering resources and continuing to urge cooperation, especially on sensitive gay issues.

"It's not so much a matter of fighting opposition," Yeager explained. "It's that straight people just don't get our issues. Once they begin to understand, the cooperation can be developed."

The new trustee is very encouraged about gay and lesbian candidates and their chances to get and hold offices. "Even with difficult matters such as legitimizing gays in the military, the stereotypes are beginning to disappear, and a national debate is being created. Through these means, we emerge in a more positive light," Yeager stated.

Concluding on a practical note, Yeager pointed out two essentials on gays being elected and succeeding in office: "There must be a consistent effort to get as much general community support as possible; once in office, the new official must realize that for each gay measure, there will be ten on non-gay matters, and these must be accomplished efficiently!" ▼



Ken Yeager



Richard Gordon

(Photo: Ted Sahli)

Richard Gordon, San Mateo Board of Education

by Marv. Shaw

Six months into his role as a new member of the San Mateo County Board of Education, veteran gay activist Richard Gordon told the *B.A.R.* that the job "was just beginning to be fun." Besides noting that increased familiarity with the nature and operations of the group made him more comfortable with it, he meant more importantly that he and the other two neophytes on the board, Ken Hill and Fred Leonard, were ready to consider the possibilities of the board's roles beyond what the law required.

To illustrate and to support his stated main motive for running for the board last November — "We must do better for the kids" — Gordon cited a current effort on expulsions, a critical matter involving the board as an appeals court for parents dissatisfied with the school districts' actions in excluding their children from the educational system.

Deeply concerned that the board had to deal with six expulsion hearings in the last six months, Gordon prompted a study on the matter. Recent budget cuts and a threatened diminishing of an educational resource under its direct control brought another study.

The board operates three "community schools," institutions for those youngsters who, for one reason or another, just can't make it in conventional schools. These schools must have a probation officer for each. Dwindling funds were about to

force cutting one officer — and therefore one school. Rather than allow that to happen automatically, Gordon ordered a study to explore alternative, creative solutions to the problem.

Advocacy for change is one role that Gordon feels is well within the purview of the county board, though of course it cannot mandate programs on its own. However, urging consideration of programs is, in Gordon's opinion, a valued function. An example which he pointed out during his campaign is an intra-school health service which is currently operating at a Daly City school.

Gordon's presence as an openly gay man on the county school board has had a potentially healthful effect for the group and for both gay and straight students. "How does it feel to be gay?" he reported that other board members asked him. Also, they raised the question, "Are our schools doing enough for gay and lesbian students?" These questions are "making this board seem much less the 'closed society' that it appeared to him formerly."

Another sign that new blood on the board is making a difference is the reply from county superintendent of schools to the question, "How do you like your new board?" Gonella said, "It's very different now. Formerly, they pushed, but I felt that they were confrontational. Now, they still push, but they feel supportive."

Such a beginning would bode well for the use of edu-

cational means such as Pam Walton's video "Gay Youth," Gordon conceded. He averred that he would be definitely supportive of staff efforts to use this new resource.

Because Gordon's regular job as director of the Youth and Family Assistance Agency is already quite demanding, the additional eight hours a week that he must devote to board work has proved to be a burden some of the time.

Consequently, he is not considering going for any higher elective office at this time. Nevertheless, he believes that this era is a good one for gay and lesbian candidates to make their tries. "Of course a lot depends on the part of the country you are in," he cautioned, but then pointed out that some gay successes are extraordinary, especially that of Glen Maxey, an openly gay man elected to the legislature in Texas.

"You must be right on the issues and highly responsive to the people," he advised, adding, "Gay politicians must bring an array of diverse issues into their campaigns and avoid being 'one-issue' candidates."

In closing, Gordon quoted a dictum he said that the Peninsula's original gay politician said many times: "It is most important that we get a place at the table!" It is becoming more and more obvious that Gordon's current place at the education table will serve the gay community well. ▼

Tom Brougham, Trustee of the Peralta Community College Board

Is yours a City, County, or State Position?

It's actually one of a number of statewide districts. This one includes six cities: Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Albany, Piedmont, and Emeryville.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was elected.

How long have you been on the board?

Six years. I was first elected in 1987, and I was reelected in 1992.

What is your party affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

Any comments on your party?

I'm beginning to wonder if they can rule.

They can't go in two direc-

tions at the same time, and I wonder if they can even go in one direction — or if they know what that direction is or should be. It seems no one wants to solve the problems; they just want to defend their turf.

What is your age?

I'm 50.

What age were you when you came out?

I was 27 or 28.

When did you enter politics?

In the early 1980s, when the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club was formed. But I'd been politically involved before that, somewhat.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

I wasn't sure how it would play out and I was prepared for it [to be an issue] but I found most people didn't blink an eye. It's a good constituency: there aren't a lot of gays and lesbians here, but we're active.

Who are your political heroes, and why?

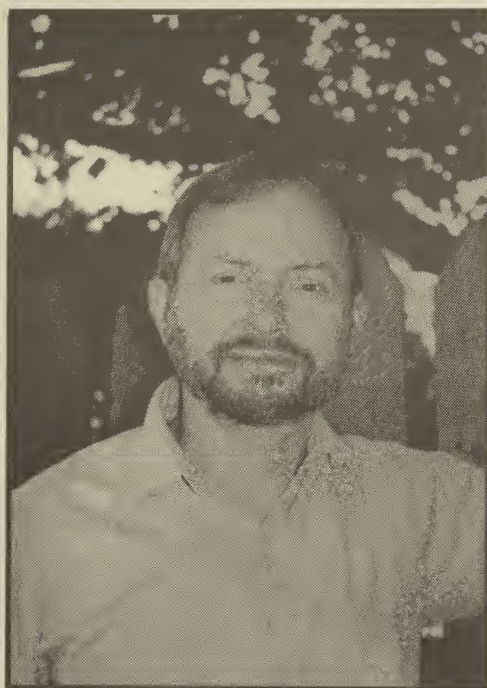
I very much admire Tom Nolan. I empathize with people who are out in areas where there is not a heavy concentration of gay people. Both John Laird and Tom Nolan have built successful careers where they couldn't just go to a large community, but where they put together large coalitions of people.

And I've always liked and admired Roberta Achtenberg.

Do you have a lover?

Yes, Barry Walters.

How much is he involved as



Tom Brougham

a political spouse?

It depends. Mostly, trustee's spouses aren't seen too frequently, but he does attend events with me. As far as political stuff, last time I ran I didn't have an opponent, so I didn't have that much [campaigning] to do, so he didn't have that much to do.

What issues have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

The [adoption of a] non-discrimination clause and domestic partner issues are two that stand out.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

I think America is less and less cohesive — intellectually and psychologically, physically and organizationally, institutions are breaking down.

I do see greater acceptance, and policy shifts in good directions, but as far as the government goes, I don't know what it means when you win governmental changes when the government means less and less.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

The oppression of kids within their families: I think that's the real heart of the matter, that it's somehow considered okay to hate kids and teach them to hate themselves just because they're gay. Like with the Boy Scout issue, the real issue is how do we stop the institutionalized teaching of kids to hate.

All subsequent work is just repairing the damage done when we are young. We have to be bold and talk about how society crushes the life out of kids.

What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?

"It's somehow considered okay to hate kids and teach them to hate themselves just because they're gay."

It's a social goal, not a legal or governmental goal: families should love their children, regardless of their — real or imagined — sexual orientations. If we had that, you couldn't have bad governmental policies. Policies are just the outgrowth of people's desires, and people would be outraged if the government tried to oppress those they loved.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

Not its worst enemy, but it does immobilize itself.

I am conscious the community has esoteric battles that are almost incomprehensible, let alone meaningful, elsewhere. San Francisco throws away its leadership role by fighting about things that don't really matter, while abandoning great chunks of things that do.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

Things are better than they were. Things will be better in the future.

What would you like to say to straight people?

Love all your children. Stop making war on some of them. ▼

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
BEGIN YOUR CELEBRATION
OF GAY & LESBIAN FREEDOM DAY
JUNE 27TH
AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
WITH HOLY EUCHARIST AT 9:00 AM.**

**THE REV. BILL COUNTRYMAN, AUTHOR OF
Dirt, Greed & Sex, WILL BE PREACHING,
AND PLEASE FEEL WELCOME
TO JOIN US FOR BRUNCH
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Tom Ammiano: President of the S.F. School Board

by David O'Connor

When Tom Ammiano lost his first bid for the San Francisco school board in 1980, he decided to take up comedy. Thirteen years later, he still leaves them rolling in the aisles and he's also in the middle of a successful term as president of the board of education.

Ammiano was part of the Lavender Sweep of 1990 that brought Roberta Achtenberg and Carole Migden to the Board of Supervisors and gave San Francisco domestic partners legislation. But he doesn't believe his being gay greatly affected his victory one way or the other.

"The best thing was that I was a teacher and have a kid in the schools," Ammiano said. "They saw that I was connected to actual issues."

Ammiano taught special education in San Francisco schools for 25 years and he has a daughter who is in eighth grade. Ammiano came out publicly after seven years of teaching, when he founded the gay teachers coalition and wound up on the front page of the *Examiner*.

"It was scary but at the same time when something feels right it feels right," Ammiano said. "It's taken a long time to really get things done

with gay and lesbian issues. We have the support, we have the policy, now we have to make sure they happen in a quality way."

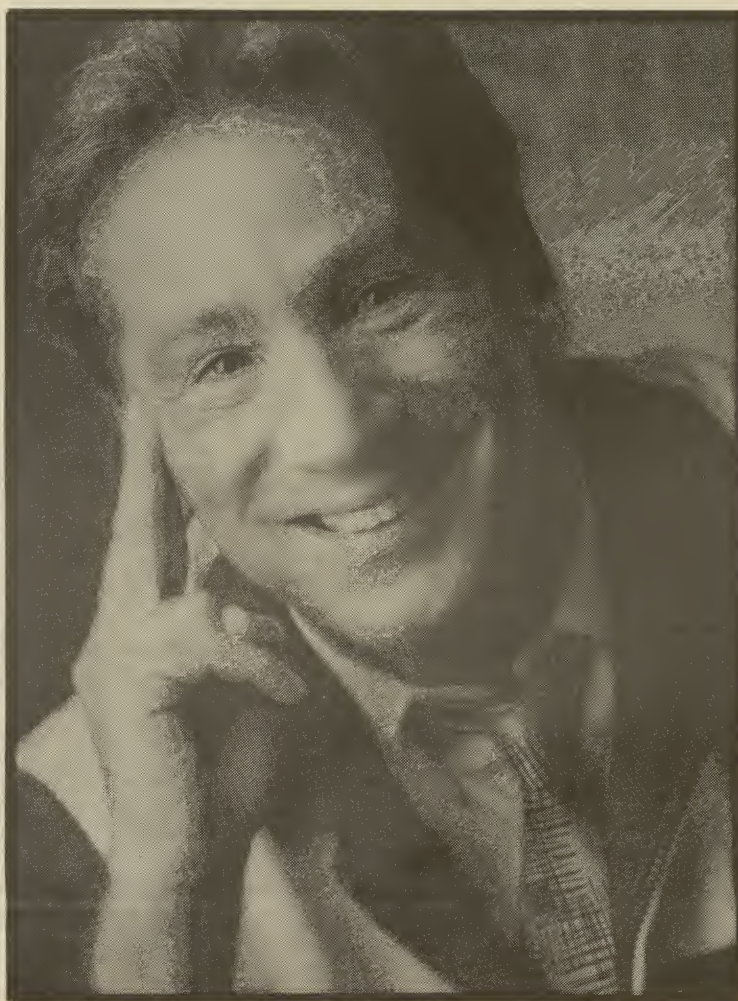
Some of Ammiano's accomplishments since becoming president include barring military recruiters, bouncing the Boy Scouts, making condoms available, and initiating lesbian and gay support services for students. He and the board are continuing to push for improved AIDS education and a gay and lesbian inclusive curriculum.

Ammiano also is working to give lesbian and gay parents a greater voice in school matters, which helps to promote gay-inclusive programs.

"We want to give gay and lesbian parents a voice that they've always needed," he said. "Gay and lesbian parents are very visible now where before they weren't. The buzz word is always, 'the parents don't like it.' Well these parents do like it."

Ammiano said that although the city's schools have long been friendly to gay concerns, it took having a gay man on the school board to make real progress on gay issues.

Programs like these that support lesbian and gay youth are a favorite target of anti-gay activists who charge adult gays with "recruiting." Ammiano is used to those arguments.



Tom Ammiano

(Photo: Steve Baratz)

"We're acknowledging that there are gay and lesbian students; for a long time no one would even acknowledge that there is this population," Am-

miano said. "Education in the United States is for all children and all students, not for just some. When people talk about recruitment, that reinforces that you really need education about who we are."

"One thing about being on the school board is that it's a golden opportunity for bridge-building to other communities," Ammiano said. "Every day you have to deal with this community or that community and you're building this bridge because it's a gay person doing it but that's not the issue."

Ammiano cited a recent vote on textbooks as an example of that bridge-building. Several minority communities didn't like the proposed books because they didn't represent minorities, so Ammiano voted against them and found that people appreciated his stand.

Also, Ammiano worked to get a Mission District school renamed in honor of the late labor leader Cesar Chavez.

Ammiano's lover, Tim Curbo, is a first grade teacher in that school.



Members of the Latin American Teachers Association thank school board President Tom Ammiano for sponsoring the name change of Hawthorne School to Cesar Chavez School.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

**Ammiano
"We're
acknowledgi-
ng that there
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Not surprisingly, a gay issue Ammiano would like to see win national attention is education concerns for lesbian and gay youth.

"We're really going after the institutionalized homophobia in education," Ammiano said. "People have been remiss about that and it needs to be taken on." ▼

John Kouba, of the S.F. Redevelopment Commission

Is yours a City, County, or State position?

City and County.

Were you appointed or Elected?

I was appointed by Mayor Jordan.

How Long have you been with the Commission?

One month, so far.

What is your party Affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

What do you think of "Year of the Queer" as a parade theme?

It wouldn't be my choice. I would want something more all-inclusive and less controversial; something that really aimed at the historic strides gays and lesbians are making. Unfortunately, many people I know say they will not attend because of the title. It's not reflective of everyone and I think something more positive could have been chosen; something that would embody the spirit of the March on Washington, which I think was a wonderful event.

I understand the strategy of diffusing the homophobic content of the word "queer," I just don't think the strategy will work for the long-run — it's not comprehensive enough of a strategy. Like the March on Washington, the Pride Parade is a big event, a "grand umbrella" that should encompass everything and everyone. "Year of the Queer" is not as effective as it could be.

How old are you?

52

How old were you when you came out?

I've always been out. No significant event brought me out. I just evolved out.

At what age did you enter politics?

At 50, except through grass-roots involvement, which I'd been involved in before.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

I've always been active at a grass-roots level: I worked extensively for Dianne Feinstein's gubernatorial run and on her Senate campaign.

Being gay just gave me another aspect and perspective. I never saw or perceived it as a hindrance. It never seemed harmful to my political involvement. Politics in San Francisco is an open thing — if you show up and work, you can be involved. Sexual orientation doesn't really factor that much: it's the work, the involvement that determines

how involved you can become.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Al Gore. I worked as San Francisco head of the Gore for President organization. He is brilliant and compassionate and has demonstrated tremendous leadership. Jimmy Carter is a hero because of his foreign policy and the Camp David Accord and what he did with Panama.

And Tom Nolan for being out there so aggressively as a gay man — he's very capable and a wonderful person.

How do you see your role as a role model?

I don't want to claim greater status, but if anyone wants to talk to me about my involvement with the Redevelopment Agency or my other political involvements, certainly I am there as a resource.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent victory?

In San Francisco any politician with the power to make appointments to commissions and agencies has to take into account the constituent balance of this city. You cannot get to first base in this town politically, if you don't. Nationally we are just breaking ground.

Roberta Achtenberg's appointment is a watershed appointment — others can follow more naturally and with greater ease. The increase and visibility of the gay/lesbian voting block certainly has had an impact on politicians' willingness to take that risk in appointing openly gay and lesbian people to high profile positions.

What issues have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

The Redevelopment Commission has been aggressively and actively involved in setting up the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS), which is a program administered through the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We have secured \$5,600,000 in funding to help AIDS/HIV infected persons handle their housing situation. Nearly \$4 million dollars is set aside for acquisition of housing units for low income AIDS/ARC/HIV persons; \$1 1/2 million for rental/lease subsidies; and nearly \$1 million for supportive services. The Redevelopment Agency, the Mayor's Housing Task Force, and the Department of Public Health are the three agencies involved in developing and administering this new program

that began in the Bush administration and pushed by the Democratic Congress.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

I think America is moving in the right direction. Again, Roberta's appointment is a definite sign. It probably began with Rock Hudson. The Reagan Administration showed no interest in AIDS until then; then some money, however inadequate, began to flow. Roberta's confirmation will make things easier — there will be less of an atmosphere of castigation in the future when openly gay and lesbians people are appointed; ability, rather than sexual orientation, will be the focus now that the ground has been broken. If we break the military ban, that will push things further, faster, because it indicates approval by the body politic that being gay or lesbian is not a mitigating situation; that it's okay to be gay. Certainly the response to AIDS has done a lot to move America in the direction of understanding and acceptance. Granted not enough has been done, but things have changed because AIDS cannot be ignored.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

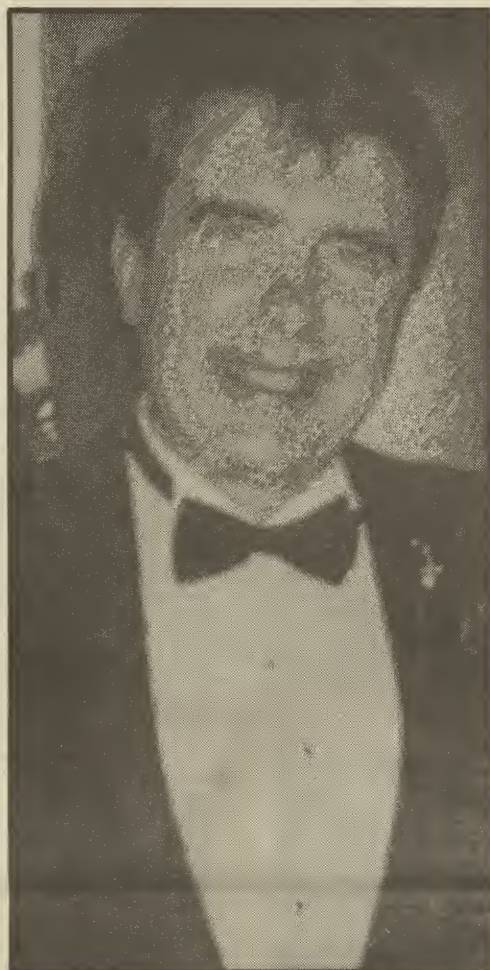
I'm hopeful on the military ban being lifted — it's very important, but it's not necessarily the most important. I think AIDS and healthcare are extremely critical and I would pit one against the other — it's not a hierarchical situation. AIDS is an issue about dignity and humanity, health and life; the military issue is about fairness and justice. Their relative importance should not be in competition, change must happen on many fronts. Sexual orientation shouldn't matter on any of these issues; the way we are sexually should not disqualify us from being 100 percent American.

What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?

Full acceptance as citizens and unconditional public support for healthcare problems.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

Politically I do not see a self-destructive tendency in our differences. I think there is a place and way for everyone to participate. It's more an issue of how effective is a strategy. Openness is the distinction, not conservative vs. liberal politics. San Francisco



John Kouba

"The way we are sexually should not disqualify us from being 100 percent American."

has had many successful gay/lesbian politicians from Harvey Milk, Harry Britt, Carole Migden — they have a rapport with labor leaders, etc. because of the openness with which they approach things. If a group has too narrow a focus, like ACT UP or Queer Nation, the strategy may not work. Some issues

that are blatantly unjust and unacceptable may require that narrow, aggressive focus, but generally speaking, a broader, more inclusive strategy will be effective in the long run.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

That it's okay to be gay. Very close friends of mine, the singing group Romanofsky and Phillips, do a song

entitled, "Tell The Children It's Okay." Kids must be told that it's okay. It's appalling that schools don't have classes and programs to tell kids that it's okay.

What would you like to say to straight people?

I would say the same thing as to the kids. I don't think there should be separate messages. Gays and lesbians should be treated with normal respect accorded any citizen. "It's okay to be gay."

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

This year I would say it's the heroes who have stood up and exposed the injustices and inequities of the system and government institutions. My pride wells when I look at the courage it took for those individuals like Keith Meinhold, Margerethe Cammermeyer, and Jose Zuniga to stand up at great personal expense. They are the "cutting-edge" activists in my opinion, because they are actively bucking a system and policy that is wrong. It must take great personal inner strength that should make all of us proud to number such people among us.

We're on the right side of history and these heroes personify so gallantly the struggle. ▼

Debra Chasnoff, of the Film & Video Arts Commission

Is your position for the City, the County, or the State?

For the City and County.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was appointed by Mayor Agnos.

How long have you had your position?

For three years.

What is your party affiliation?

Democrat.

Do you have any comments on your party?

I stay mostly uninvolved in party politics. But democrats are for the people, so I'm a democrat.

What is your age?

I'm 35.

How old were you when you came out?

I was 18.

At what age did you enter politics?

I've been a grass roots politician my entire adult life. I've always been issue-based and involved on that level.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

It was the reason for my appointment. The mayor was showing support for the lesbian and gay community.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Caesar Chavez, and all gay and lesbian politicians who were there doing it before it was an "easy" out.

How do you see your role as a role model?

I won an Oscar for the Best Short Documentary, *Deadly Deception*. I came out at the Oscar presentation and thanked my lover Kim. No one had ever done that before. The *B.A.R.* didn't even report it. [Editor's note: We humbly apologize to Ms. Chasnoff.] I do take the role model thing seriously because we are still so starved for gay and lesbian heroes in our lives.

How much is your lover involved as a political spouse?

Kim Clausen is my love. We co-produce some films, one of which was *Choosing Children*, about the right of gays and lesbians to raise children. We co-founded *Alta Magazine*. We are a team creatively and politically. Our work is political.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent victory?

I was appointed because of my work in film, more than the fact that I was lesbian, although I'm sure the more visible the gay and lesbian vote,

the easier it is for elected politicians to appoint us to important positions and commissions.

What issues or cases have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

Films: *The Deadly Deception* and *Choosing Children*.

What is your feeling that America is growing more or less tolerant?

Straights are having to reckon with us because more and more gays and lesbians are coming out; that's the key, coming out. Acceptance grows exponentially as more of us come out. There's a rip-

"There's no end goal; it's evolutionary — we just keep going."

ple effect, although it also intensifies the backlash. Definitely things change as we allow ourselves to come out.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

Multiple issues. We are not a single issue community — it's very complex. Lesbian and gay family issues are important to me and all of us. AIDS is so vitally important. Also, equal access to marriage.

What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?

To have the same rights as everyone. To stretch the boundaries and push the culture; opening up society to acceptance and embracing of sexual and affectional relationships between same sex couples. To fight, not for tolerance, but an embracing of gays and lesbians.

We need to make inroads, not just on the sex issue, but on the entire culture: film, art. We need to continue to foster a national discourse to assist the culture to be more open. There is no end goal; it's evolutionary — we just keep going.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

No. The in-fighting is just internalized homophobia. We have to all work through it. We are not a monolithic subculture. One person or one march cannot represent the full diversity. It's not for me



Oscar-winning filmmaker Debra Chasnoff

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

to judge. It's more a question of tactical strategy, and we must find a consensus on what is appropriate strategy at any given point.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

Being gay or lesbian means a lot of different things; don't get held down or

back by one aspect. Have the courage to be who you are.

What would you like to say to straight people?

Think about how your actions affect the gay people in your own lives, whether you know it or not. Look into yourselves and decide what side of history you will be on.

What is the one characteris-

tic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

In San Francisco my son is able to have two legal mothers. I cherish that here that battle is won and my son benefits from it every day. I am just grateful and proud to be apart. ▼

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Parading Our Differences, Our Similarities, And Our Strengths

by Tom Bacchus

Changes are everywhere at this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. Although this year's theme, "The Year of the Queer," has upset some in the community, the new parade



Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics

route and celebration location are just a few of the welcome differences. "The largest annual lesbian/gay event in the world will highlight a community of change and diversity," said Parade spokespeople.

The parade forms Sunday, June 27 in the Civic Center and begins at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of 8th and Market Street. The march participants will then move east on Market Street to the Embarcadero. At press time, the marching order of the participants had not been released.

One of the positive differences about the new march direction is the view it will afford celebrants. Instead of empty City Hall looming over the fun, the Bay Bridge and panoramic landscape of the Berkeley Hills will greet the masses in what march organizers call "a majestic backdrop."

The area that formerly contained the hideous Embarcadero Freeway will be replaced by booths from over 300 community organizations;

there will be food booths, informational display areas, and representatives from many community businesses, providing plenty of time to stock up on pamphlets and T-shirts.

The Celebration area's main stage will feature six hours of entertainment and statements of community pride and responsibility. The program begins at noon and continues until 6 p.m. The new site will allow people to sit and rest on acres of grass — instead of the street, to which viewers were relegated at past gay pride events — to watch the activities onstage.

Bob Hattoy, Special Assistant to the President of the United States, will be a primary speaker. This is the first time in history a person on the President's staff has ever appeared at a major lesbian/gay event. Hattoy came

out as a gay man, and as a person with AIDS, at the Democratic National Convention.

Carole Migden will join Achtenberg at 1:30 p.m. on the main stage. Over 200 parade applications have been received at the Parade Committee offices, indicating the total number of entrants will equal, if not surpass, any preceding year, according to March organizers. Parade organizers are hopeful the theme "The Year of the Queer" — however controversial — will "demonstrate the wide spectrum of community diversity, responsibility and change."

The parade this year will maintain a tradition that has lasted over a decade, by beginning with the Women on Motorcycles group, informally known as Dykes on Bikes, featuring over 200 lesbians on motorcycles. That group will be followed by Keith Meinhold, Angie Fa, and Marlon



(Photo: Rick Gerharner)

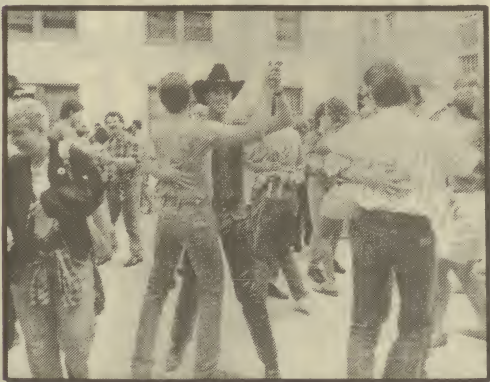
Riggs, the Grand Marshals of the 1993 parade.

Meinhold, a United States Navy Petty Officer, has successfully won precedent-setting legal challenges that prohibit him being discharged from the military because he is gay. He will be followed by a contingent of veterans and those currently serving in the military. Their participation is particularly significant, coming just 18 days before President Bill Clinton has pledged to sign an Executive Order banning discrimination against lesbians and gays in the military.

Fa is the first open Asian lesbian ever elected to public office in the United States.

She was the highest vote-getter in last November's election for the San Francisco Board of Education. She is also past President of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club and is respected for her work as a union organizer.

Riggs has won many significant awards and is highly respected around the world as a filmmaker and as an educator. He has received numerous television Emmys



(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Who's Who — And When

This year there will be only one mainstage for performers and speakers. Located in the park area at The Embarcadero and Washington Streets (one block north of Market Street), the day's stage events promise to be both entertaining and political. The tentative schedule of speakers and performers is follows:

12:00	John Kelly
12:20	Cleanopolis
1:00	Pansy Division
1:30	Supervisor Carole Migden
1:35	Bob Hattoy, Special Assistant to the President of the United States
1:40	Roberta Achtenberg, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing Urban Development
1:45	Angel Corpus Christi
2:15	Marlon Riggs, Grand Marshal of the 1993 SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade
2:25	Elvis Herselvis and Patsy Cline
2:55	Keith Meinhold, Grand Marshal of the 1993 SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade
3:00	Angie Fa, Grand Marshal of the 1993 SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade
3:05	Pat Wilder
3:40	Enrique
4:15	Supervisor Susan Leal
4:20	Olivia Records Tribute
5:10	Ggreg Taylor & Marsha Levine, Co-Chairs, SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day
5:20	Justin Bond and Connie Champagne
5:35	Gravity

Other speakers and performers include Tom Ammiano, Greg Byfield, Queen Cougar, Julie Dorf, Jean Harris, Cleve Jones, Byron McQuarters, Dennis Peron, Sal Rosselli, Jean Paul Samaha, Carmen Vasquez, Tim Wolfred, John Woods. Their exact time has not been finalized.

For people who may not be able to attend the events, but want to know what's going on, KPFA, 94.1 FM will begin their coverage of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day activities starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. All activities on the main stage beginning at 12:00 Noon will be broadcast live on KPFA. ▼

and has been honored with the prestigious Peabody Award. His award winning film, *Tongues Untied*, highly controversial because of its honest look at the gay community, was the subject of a television commercial by homophobic 1992 presidential candidate Pat Buchanan.

Also featured among march participants will be the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Marching Band, a group that will celebrate its 15th anniversary. It was 15 years ago when the late Jon Sims first gathered this group together to march in the 1978 parade. Many former members of the band will be returning to march in the parade.

These lesbian/gay pride activities are also the largest annual tourist attraction in San Francisco. Each year, every major hotel is filled to capacity and businesses from the Castro to Chinatown experience a dramatic upswing in business.

Not only is this the 15th anniversary of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Marching Band, it also marks the 15th year for several other important gay and lesbian organizations including the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The rainbow flag, created by Gilbert Baker, who co-chairs

this year's celebration activities, has become an unofficial gay flag around the world. The flag was first flown at the Gay Freedom Day events of 1978.

Also 15 years ago, Harvey Milk took office as San Francisco's first openly gay elected official. In his position as supervisor, he won passage of San Francisco's first gay rights ordinance. It was the year when he led the fight to defeat John Briggs and his California proposition 64. On November 27, 1987, Supervisor Harvey Milk was assassinated in his City Hall office. San Francisco Mayor George Moscone was also murdered that day.

Gay pride celebrations are held to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of June 27-29, 1969. The riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village had a revolutionary effect, sending the gay rights movement into a new more radical direction.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration, one of several pride celebrations held each year, is the largest annual lesbian/gay event in the world and, with the exception of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, is the largest annual parade in California. ▼

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Art's New Star

by Orland Outland

Few labels incite more suspicion than the word "genius." Ever since the '70s when Fran Lebowitz bemoaned the fact that the word was being used "to describe accessories editors at *Vogue*," it's been hyperbolized out of common usage.

However, after seeing David Johnston's performance piece, *ArtStar*, which ran recently at the Cafe du Nord, San Francisco's jaded art-fag elite found itself reaching to take that word off the shelf. Johnston's hook-laden original disco songs, sinuously seductive tales, and arresting staging made *ArtStar* a word-of-mouth sensation, and may very well earn Johnston the title of "the Orson Welles of performance art." He's now doing a video "commercial" for *ArtStar* to use in securing a new space for the show.



David Johnston — rising star

twist it around so that by the end, they wonder why they were laughing in the first place. That's the whole thing about audience safety: they think it's very comfortable and funny and campy, and it turns into something else, which is what I want *ArtStar* to be all about. It looks safe, but it's really not safe at all.

The show is executed to perfection — the singing, dancing, everything. Do you think of yourself in those terms, as a perfectionist?

It's very important for me to show hard work, and show respect for the audience. When I go to see performances, I really respect it when you can see there was a lot of work behind it. There's a lot of stuff out there that could be tighter, that could be better executed. I like loose things, if it works for the piece that someone's doing, but for me it has to be very controlled. I'm very controlling!

You start out with a wig and sunglasses and shed them as you go. Do you feel like you need to put those defenses on to get on the stage?

I never really looked at it as a defense; I thought of it more as extending the persona away from me, creating this whole sense of falsehood. The girls have wigs, I have wigs; I think being able to shed them is important for me because it has to be honest to a degree. I don't want it to be that surface aesthetic. Some people were wondering why I would take the wig off, but by the end number ["Miss Fortune," which is about becoming infected with HIV], that song is very serious to me and I needed to let them know that this was coming from the heart, and it wasn't about the wig or my face.

You follow the last original song, "Miss Fortune," with a Sylvester song, "Everybody Is a Star," but you seem to be mourning less that '70s lifestyle than that '70s innocence. The Sylvester song is so optimistic, but you can't help thinking when you hear it at that point in the show, he's dead, that time is dead. Was that a deliberate conjunction?

Definitely. Sylvester is an incredible icon because he was someone gay who became a big star, and then his career waned and he died of AIDS. He just stands for so much, and I needed something that was circular — I start out with the fame thing, and then show that we can all be stars, and then stars up in the sky, if you're thinking of people who've gone. In a lot of work lately, every time AIDS is mentioned it's a big mourning process, with candles being lit on stage, and that's something I've never really responded to. I've lost close friends, but I would rather remember them by dancing in a disco as a way of acknowledging what happened, where it all started.

"ArtStar looks safe, but it's really not safe at all." — David Johnston

For me, growing up in a town of 2000 people, that was a big escape. I didn't know then that it was identified with gay culture; I didn't know where disco came from until later. But it saved me, I think, especially that Donna Summer album. I was so religious at the time, we weren't supposed to listen to music like that. It was very secretive... It was the devil's music.

Exactly. You weren't supposed to go to dances, all that. And then when she [Donna Summer] was born again, that was just this weird twist, this weird tragedy, that I can look back and laugh about now.

You do a lot of serious material in ArtStar, but you seduce the audience into it with amusing leads.

A lot of the 1970s-related shows going on now are very campy and ironic, but you identify a lot of the genuine feelings those of us of a certain age had for disco at that time. You do a piece about Donna Summer's "Now I Need You"; I remember being 16 years old and having religious visions whenever I heard that.

The one-two punch. I found it was much more seductive if you can bring them in and make them laugh, then

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Living It and Loving It

by Chad Jones

Fashion designer, actor, and club scene celebrity Billy de Herrera has gone legit with his current stint as Miss Industrial Northeast in the hit show *Pageant* at the Post Street Palace. An actor in his youth, de Herrera slowly gravitated toward fashion design and the glittering San Francisco night life. He considers himself primarily an actor these days, but tries to juggle his thespian duties with the responsibilities of his own fashion business.

De Herrera plans to open a clothing store called Billy Club on Nob Hill this summer. He shows up at the cafe for his interview wearing a modified tour T-shirt for the recent *Evita* and handmade black shorts. The shirt features customized trimming with a late '70s-retro overlock stitch ("Very Flashdance," de Herrera says as he exposes his bare shoulder and poses), and the shorts have no pockets ("All my laundry was dirty so I made these in 10 minutes ... pockets would've taken too long"). With a stubbly face — this beauty queen has just had two days off — and a frequent chipped-tooth grin, de Herrera sips his smoothie and talks about the life of a drag queen and his quest to fulfill his New Year's slogan, "Live it and love it."

.....

Chad Jones: What is the discipline required to be in a hit show?

Billy de Herrera: For me, it's changing my diet, quitting smoking, and quitting drinking. I know plenty of actors who can drink everybody under the table and smoke pot and do whatever and have a blast. I can't. I feel like I have a 45-year-old's body, and I'm 27. I used to weigh 285, then 245 last year, and I've recently lost weight, so my body hasn't been in the best shape. Getting back into shows has helped me drop 60 pounds over the last year and get into shape again. I'm still shedding pounds and firming up here and there.

I've had a lot of battles with addictions in the past — mostly in my teenage years — and they were easy for me because I ran away from them. That was a weird way to say it. I mean I went away from all the people I used to hang out with. Moved to another city and changed my life. I was able to have a new lifestyle, and that's been the truth with overeating and drinking. When I went to clubs, the bartenders always gave me drinks so I would drink a dozen Stoli on the



The delightful Billy de Herrera as Miss Industrial Northeast in *Pageant*.

rocks — I was a big girl. Now I don't do that.

Your character in Pageant, Miss Industrial Northeast, Consuela Manuela Raphaela Lopez, is the big girl in the show. How do you feel about the swimsuit competition?

I was a little nervous at first when I saw the costumes coming in because I am a costume designer. All the costumes I designed for myself when I was heavy were specifically designed to make myself look thinner. The *Pageant* costume designer used slimming techniques on all the other girls' costumes, but they were putting me in this bungi stuff with horizontal lines. I was very nervous about the swimsuit because the audience would see that I really was a toothpaste tube or a sausage casing. But I got over it. I wear the suit with maturity. So what if I look like the really old nellie baby of Zero Mostel and Jane Russell.

What effect does being in a successful drag show have on one's social life? Any stage door Johnnies hanging about?

When I go out, a lot of people who used to snub me suddenly want to be my friend. That's another reason why I don't go to the clubs anymore because there's such insensitive behavior amongst young gay clubbantes. They want to be friends with you if you're a) muscular, b) gonna be able to do something for them, or c) have drugs. It's very cliquy. I don't want to be mean to anybody when I go out, but I can't keep smiling when I know these people used to totally dish me. Now that I've lost 20-30 pounds and got into this big show, there's this blatant turnaround.

I do have a new interest in my life, and we've been seeing each other for 12 years, off and on. He always had a lover, so after he'd break up, we'd go out, then he'd meet somebody new. He's meat

about my physical appearance, I really don't have the need to go out and prove anything and get compliments from people.

Are there days you wish you didn't have to go to work and put on a dress?

Oh, yeah. Not so much the dress, but there are days I wish I didn't have to shave. We all have to shave every day. We shave from the areolas up (and not too close to those areolas). You know, it's weird when I try and have a private, personal encounter with somebody — unless I keep it smooth all the time, there's a little bit of stubble. It's kind of gross going to bed with a drag queen. No offense, I'm sure going to bed with a drag queen is fabulous.

You don't know from experience?

No, I'm more into Greek fishermen types myself. But really, it's a bitch to shave all the time.

What happens to your fashion designing while you're an actor?

I still do that. I'm trying to put in 75 to 80 hours a week, 30 with the show and 40 or 50 with my business. It's really been hard since we just opened and had a long rehearsal period and everything, but now I'm putting more time into the business.

I understand you've designed for much of San Francisco's glitterati.

Yes, I've done things for Pussy Tourette, Connie Champagne, and before he died, Sylvester bought a couple of things I made for him. I did Justin Bond's and Elvis Herselvis' wedding outfits and things for Miss X and Phillip R. Ford. I designed a Barbie dress out of napkins for one of Tippi's Barbie dolls at a slumber party once. X still has that.

I've been having a lot of fun over the years. I try not to be too much in the crowd lately because as much fun as it is to be in the club scene and be seen all the time, the most exciting thing to me is doing *Pageant*. I think Justin Bond left the show because he can't do the same thing over and over again every single night. It has to be fresher for him, and I respect that. There are actors that should do movies and television, and then there are actors who like to do the repetition. I dig on it. I thrive on it and the applause every night and trying to do everything as if it's for the first time, like it's really fresh.

But I digress. The whole thing about the "in crowd" is that I want to be able to concentrate on my business and act. If I devote my time to my business, I'll be able to produce a lot of one-of-a-kind stuff for the rack at a price people can afford. As it's been, I've really had to undersell myself for years. I've had to give all these huge, wild outfits to these would-be-famous people for \$50 and \$100 when they were worth \$400 or \$500. I did it because I wanted to be out there, but I can't do that anymore. ▼

**"So what if I look like the really old nellie baby of Zero Mostel and Jane Russell."
— Billy de Herrera**

and potatoes. I'm sushi. Lately we've been hanging out quite a bit. He's not tripped out at all about the drag.

But that's the whole thing: the show makes me feel like I'm not a drag queen anymore. It makes me feel like I'm the actor I always wanted to be. The only reason I went out there in drag these last couple of years was because I wanted some applause, and it was easier to be fabulous and pretty as a heavy person in a dress and make-up, so I used that. Now that I've lost weight and am feeling better

Charles "Chuck" Morrow, Of the Fire Commission

Is your position for the City, the County, or the State?

For the City and the County.

Were you appointed or elected?

"I was criticized and ridiculed more by members of the gay community for my Fire Commission appointment than by straights."

I was appointed by Mayor Jordan.

How long have you been with the commission?

Since February of 1992

What is your party affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

What do you think of "Year of the Queer" as a parade theme?

It's not an issue with me.

What is your age?

I'm 51.

How old were you when you came out?

I was 17.

When did you enter politics?

I guess with my "Empress" election [to the Imperial Court] in 1978.

Did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

Yes. I always thought it would be a handicap. We are fortunate to be in San Francisco because it matters less. Drag has been a hinderance more than sexual orientation.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Harvey Milk broke the ice and is my major hero.

How do you see your role as a role model?

Any time you are visible, you're a role model; I take it seriously. I don't know how good a one I am, but I've put myself out there as Empress and on the Fire Commission.

How much is your lover involved as a political spouse?

We are out as a couple, but he's not politically involved. He questions why I give so much. I tell him it's because I feel I owe the gay community for what they have given me and what it has made my life being a part of the community.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent victory?

Definitely, the visible voting power of our community woke a lot of politicians up. They have to consider us more seriously now.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

More tolerant. There are signs of it everywhere: the Achtenberg appointment, Barney Frank, Gerry Studds. ... Coming out and being out has been a deciding factor in the change America is making.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

It's a major issue, I just hope it doesn't backfire and push us back into the closet. I don't like the compromise of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It's dangerous. But if it is a question of taking one step forward or two backwards, I say take the forward step. I would like to see it open up all the way, but we are used

to compromise and things changing slowly.

What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?

Total acceptance, not tolerance. To be treated as human beings. It's about humanity.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

Yes. I was criticized and ridiculed more by members of the gay community for my Fire Commission appointment than by straights. It's competitive, and a lot of gay and lesbians said, "Why him and not me?" Anita Bryant really unified us as a community; we certainly did not unify ourselves.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

We started it — it's up to you to keep it going and continue to grow. I implore the young to get involved and keep it going.

What would you like to say to straight people?

Come on and join us. It's overdue, especially those like Jesse Helms. Come out and see what we're really like.

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

Our continued and awesome "visibility." Achtenberg's appointment wells me with pride. ▼

"I've put myself out there as Empress and on the Fire Commission."



Former Empress Charles Morrow

Pierre Ludington, County Health Commissioner

by Jeff Fast



Pierre Ludington

(Photo: Judi Parks)

Pierre Ludington has been a prominent activist in San Francisco's gay and lesbian community, especially on behalf of the city's PWAs, for more than ten years.

Currently, Ludington serves as one of nine members of the County Health Commission, which oversees the \$623 million health budget of San Francisco County. He was appointed to the position earlier this year by Mayor Frank Jordan.

"Once there's a decision [by the Board of Supervisors] on the public health budget then it comes to us to distribute," explained Ludington, in a *Bay Area Reporter* interview. "The commission is divided into committees. There are the two hospital committees for Laguna Honda Hospital and SF General Hospital, and then there's the public health committee, which is what I'm chair of."

And as chair of the public health committee, Ludington oversees more than \$30 million in local AIDS spending. Holding the position on the commission is often frustrating, he said, because, "there's just not nearly enough money."

The subject of AIDS funding is close to Ludington's heart because he is a PWA who has been on disability for more than three years due to the disease, cutting short his career as a medical doctor.

In 1991, Ludington, now 44, became the first chair of the Mayor's HIV Planning Council. Before that, he was the president of Physicians for Human Rights, a national organization based in San Francisco that fights for civil rights. Under his leadership, it became the country's first non-sexuality-based organization to espouse rights and adequate health care for PWAs. Last week the American Medical Association finally made official its policy of not discriminating against gays and lesbians, and Ludington said he was pleased with the decision.

Rather than describe himself as a politician, Ludington refers to himself as a health care and human rights advocate. The issue of gays in the military, albeit important, is taking up too much of the gay and lesbian community's resources that would be better used on AIDS and other civil rights issues, according to Ludington.

What the heterosexual public and young people of all persuasions need is education about a variety of issues, he said.

"Teaching the public is absolutely necessary," he said. "A lot of people think that as gay people, we don't think. This pisses me off. Of course we think."

Ludington describes himself as a "former" Catholic, and said his former church bears responsibility for much of the ignorance and pain and suffering occurring in the world.

"A lot of problems seem to be all tied up in the Catholic Church," he said. "A person's decisions about their life should be their own and nobody else's."

He is also at odds with his former church over an issue that has become very close to his heart, the right-to-die.

Ludington has become one of San Francisco's most outspoken euthanasia activists. Two weeks ago, in the pages of the *B.A.R.*, he publicly spoke for the first time about having helped two of his friends with AIDS commit suicide, an illegal act in California. He also said that his own life will probably end with a suicide.

As a member of the euthanasia advocacy group Hemlock Society, Ludington spoke at the first ever suicide workshops, held last week in San Francisco. The right to die should be every person's right, Ludington said, because nobody should be forced to endure suffering against their will. Existing laws should be changed to make physician-assisted suicide legal, he added.

"Suicide is a perfectly reasonable decision to make about dying," he said.

As a public figure, Ludington said he hopes he can be a role model for gay men and PWAs. Now that he has gone public about his experiences with suicide, he said he hopes other people considering suicide or assisting a friend with suicide will get assurance from his story.

"What I would want to say to those people who are struggling with their health and thinking about death and how they're going to do it is that they aren't alone," he said. "You aren't the only person with the thoughts you have, and there's nothing wrong with what you're thinking. There are people out there to talk to." ▼

Rosa Rivera, Of the Commission On the Status Of Women

Is the Commission for the Status of Women a City, County, or State Commission?

City and County.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was appointed by Mayor Jordan to the CSW, and also as a representative on the Mission Task Force.

How Long have you been with CSW?

Since August 1992, for a four-year term.

What is your title there?

Vice president.

What is your party affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

"We need to clean our own house. We must stand united and support our candidates. Gays are not doing everything possible to help themselves out."

Any comments on your party?

Homophobia exists on the party level, and it still exists within the fabric of city politics, but it is no longer such a factor in the private sector. Unfortunately, there is still the "glass ceiling" for gays and lesbians in party politics.

What is your age?

I'm 47.

How old were you when you came out?

At 16, in New York. I was arrested for being at a lesbian party.

At what age did you enter politics?

At 47 - in August, 1992. I've been pro-active as a lesbian businesswoman most of my life, but with no prior government service.

How did your sexual orientation affect your percep-

tions of your political viability?

Fear of "outing" was always on my mind. The reality that there would be no promotions if I were a known lesbian haunted me. I left jobs because of my fear of discovery. I definitely moved on and made myself shine because of it. I was living in New York near the Stonewall Inn in 1969 and lived in an area of "concentrated" homosexuals in New York in 1960-61. I was labelled and targeted and it affected the direction I took.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Roberta Achtenberg, of course.

And Robert Kennedy, because of his fight for civil rights - which includes gay and lesbian rights. And Clinton, but the media and right-wing is killing him before he can do what's in his heart.

How do you see your role as a role model?

Absolutely I am a role model. I pulled myself up from very adverse conditions to become a successful and visible lesbian business woman and community leader. I was not born with a silver spoon and it has taken hard work and guts to get where I am. Gay and lesbian people need role models.

Do you have a lover; how much are they involved as a political spouse?

Yes. She serves on the Youth Commission. We are out as a political couple and as business women. We have a plumbing consultant business and a restaurant, El Nuevo Frutillande.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent victory?

It's easier to be very out and viable for appointments, especially in San Francisco. The more we vote, the more power we have. Every vote affects all of us.

What issues or cases have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

Domestic violence for gay and lesbians issue. I'm involved in the budget for monies spent on this issue; where it will go. I monitor grant proposals for programs for the gay and lesbian community.

What is your feeling that America is growing more or less tolerant?

From San Francisco looking out, we are about half way there. From East to West looking out, we are



Rosa Rivera

about ten percent there. I believe in the "empower government movement." We need also to clean our own house. We must stand united and support our candidates. The gay community, like the Latino/Latina community is very nationalistic. Gays are not doing everything possible to help themselves out.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

AIDS. I'm sick of it. Take a walk through General Hos-

pital. It's attacking the youth - the future. My son is 27 and gay, Ozzie Santiago. He works on Tenderloin HIV problems and housing for HIV people and substance abuse. AIDS consumes us. *What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?*

Politics, government, government, and more government. And positive media.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

There is an "immaturity factor" that holds us back. There is always a generation gap, but we need the new blood. AIDS took us on a negative bent. AIDS has stagnated our movement. Women are the caretakers and that's why we are so involved in politics now: the boys are distracted dealing with the horror of AIDS.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

"Stop, look and listen!"

What would you like to say to straight people?

We shall overcome because we understand that the battle has not begun until we beat AIDS. It's your choice to support institutionalized homophobia or civil rights. Get healthy and have a "future" mindset because we are changing things for everyone.

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

Everyone should go to a march at some point. It helps define and satisfy who you are to yourself. I'm proud of our support of each other and our commitment to each other and the community and making things better for those who follow us. ▼

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Symphonic Orthodontics

by Paul Thomason

Cellist Emil Miland feels the fact that he is a gay man is an asset to his ability to express emotion through music. "I think gay men have a real sensitivity to art and expression. Certainly in our society, once you get over being gay in a straight society, it's easier to go for broke in your personal expression."

"All gay people know about being seen as less than wonderful, just because of who we are. That sucks. So when you learn to rise above that, you learn to rise above a lot of the bullshit. Say you've got a pine tree and you've got an apple tree," he continues. "They're both trees, but they are different species. And this is how I'm coming to feel about gay people and straight people. We're both human, but sometimes I think there really is a difference in how we go about our lives."

The 33-year-old cellist, a member of the San Francisco Opera orchestra, the New Century Chamber Orchestra and one half of the Miland/Sutherland Cello/Piano Duo, grew up in Alameda in a musical household. His three older sisters all studied different instruments and his father was a music educator in the public schools. "Music was just part of the daily soup, it was always going on. When I was going to school children had the opportunity to pursue art, to pursue music."

Tooth Fairy Blessing

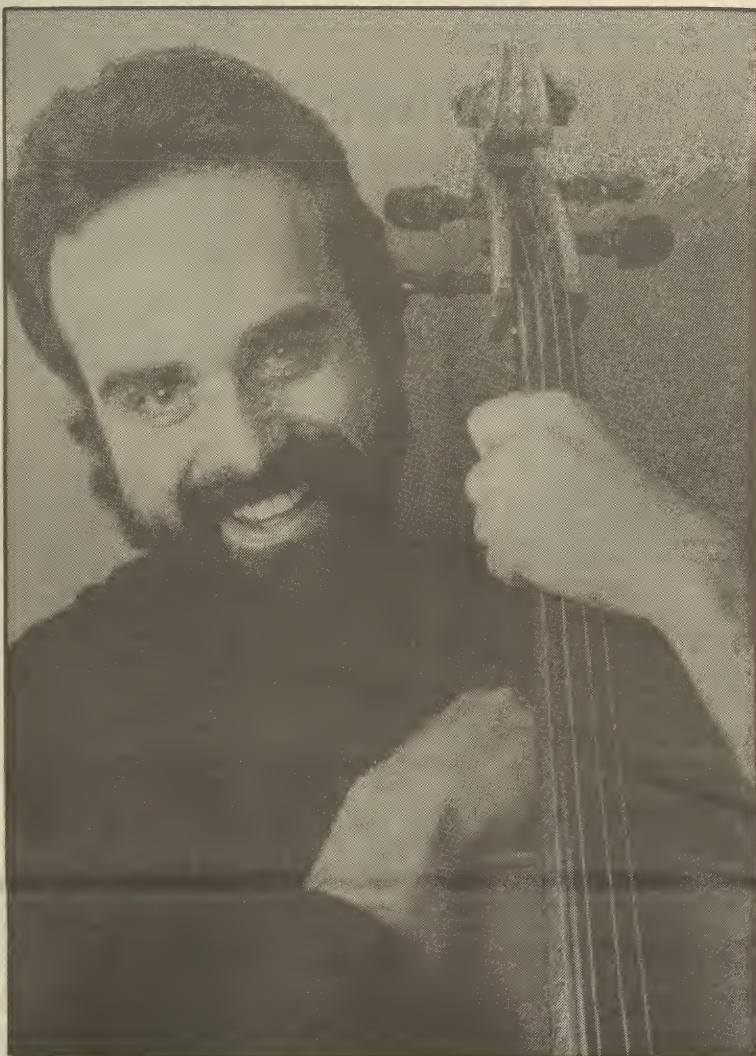
He started studying the

clarinet in school when he was in the fourth grade. "Thank God I had terrible teeth and had orthodontics for three years so the clarinet kept squeaking," he says with a characteristic hearty laugh. "When I got to the fifth grade they decided to give me a cello. My father was wise and said I couldn't take private lessons until I was 13. That was the year I heard a recording of Jacqueline De Pre [playing the cello]. The emotional outpouring, to a 13-year-old, was the hottest thing in the world. She was truly one of the angels who graced us for a while."

"Muscle-wise I got to the cello at just the right time, it was something I loved. By 16 I was playing the Elgar 'Cello Concerto' with the Oakland Youth Symphony."

Miland was quickly tagged as a cellist in school, and almost as quickly was tagged as a homosexual. "I've known I was gay since I knew I was anything. One day I was walking through the high school corridors with my cello — it was like 'Leave it to Beaverville' — and from the other end of the hall the captain of the football team screams, 'Faggot!' It was every young homosexual's nightmare, and I lived it. Now I look back and think the guy was very perceptive."

"I never had a huge coming out experience because I always knew I was gay. Thank God I grew up in a family that was very supportive. Looking back, my parents had homosexual friends who came over to the house, so I knew older gay men who were role models for me, and



Cellist Emil Miland

I'm grateful for them — one in particular who now lives in New York — he was so creative and able to do so much, to realize his imaginings. When you're a young artist, if you don't have that kind of example, it's very hard to muster it all up for yourself. As gay people we must have the courage to be visible and productive and not get down-trodden, especially with the AIDS epidemic."

The AIDS crisis forced Miland to deal with himself, and his art, in a new way. "I'm not saying I'll make the most of myself because of my fallen heroes, but I think it has made me really want to do well and realize my potential. Those of us who have been allowed good health have got to make the most of it. We have to. It's not only our birthright, it's the responsible thing to do."

Top 40

In his solo and chamber playing, Miland deliberately programs a certain amount of contemporary music because he believes part of his duty as a musician is to make his audiences stretch. "If you give

them all nice little dishes with French cream sauce, they're going to end up not tasting much. The music has to speak to me emotionally, to move me. And when it does, you figure, well, the elbow grease might be worth it."

"We've all heard musicians who can play all the notes up the wazoo, but that's not where it's at for me. The technical bravura has to be there, yes — you'd better be able to play all the notes and to play them in tune — but you have to have some real depth, there has to be a point to it. If I'm going to ask someone to stop his busy life, sit down, shut up and listen to what I'm trying to do, it better be good. It better have something to give."

"To be a good artist there's always got to be that little bit of doubt. Without that, I think artists just go, 'Eh, here it is.' If you can break through that, it can make you give your best. Maybe being gay has something to do with that, too. You accept yourself, you live a happy, well-adjusted life, but maybe there's always a part of you that's a bit cautious, always aware that

"We've all heard musicians who can play all the notes up the wazoo, but that's not where it's at for me."

you're not perhaps the idea of normal."

Miland credits his partner, Freddy, with helping him a great deal. The two men live in Noe Valley and spend a lot of time working in their award-winning garden. "A lot of artists have to be in the throes of angst in order to express their art. Well, I don't want to live that way. I'm enjoying being myself more and more." ▼

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Joe Grubb, Executive Director Of the Rent Board

Is yours a city, county/ or state position?

For the city and county.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was appointed by Mayor Agnos in August 1969 — his first openly gay appointment.

What is your party affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

How Do You Feel About "The Year of the Queer?"

I have mixed feelings. I personally feel the movement has moved beyond that point; "in-your-face" politics is part of another phase we have moved beyond because we are getting a different kind of attention now — America is beginning to listen.

How old are you?

45.

How old were you when you came out?

24.

At what age did you enter politics?

1975. It's my first appointment, but I was involved on grass roots level and political campaigns since '75.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

Anywhere but San Francisco I thought it would be impossible for a political life as an open gay man. I gave no credence or thought to even doing it because the obstacles seemed unsurmountable. In 1975 it was not really even viable here in San Francisco, though the atmosphere seemed more hospitable and so it seemed plausible, if not difficult.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Everett Koop, because he was such a conservative and had such a conservative base of support that he went against to deal with AIDS in an honest and straightforward manner. He took risks to do the "right" thing and went against the grain.

Al Gore Senior, because in Tennessee during the Vietnam era he went against the grain and stood up against the war. It was political suicide for him and he lost his job. I admire anyone who stands up for principle with great personal risk. Al Gore, Jr. will emerge as a political hero in the vein of his father.

How do you see your role as a role model?

Definitely I am a role model. Considering where the gay and lesbian movement is at this present stage, so few of us are in high profile, visible positions that we owe it to the community and our brothers and sisters to be exem-

plary. We must exercise extra caution and diligence in how we conduct ourselves so that we send the right message to those we seek to change and win over to acceptance of gays and lesbians.

How much is your lover involved as a political spouse?

We are out as a couple, but he is not politically involved. He feels one and a half of us is giving enough.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your most recent appointment?

Absolutely the visibility of the gay "voting block" has affected the ease with which gays and lesbians are appointed and will be elected in the future. I was appointed before that new wave of voting power, but I have remained in the position. The movement has said all along that the power is in the vote. If everyone knew who we are, we would have tremendous clout. "Out" people are raising public consciousness. We are increasing our strength in the voting booth.

What issues have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

I was involved in support of the domestic partners issue, which is so important to us. AIDS housing issues and arbitration on behalf of AIDS infected persons who have rent disputes and increases that are unbearable on fixed incomes. There are encouraging signs on a case-by-case basis that indicate that landlords are willing to cooperate and carry a part of the burden of housing for AIDS persons.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

America is moving in the right direction. We have the capacity in this country to accept and integrate gays and lesbians fully into the society. America is built on diversity and we have to teach the straight community that we are a part of that fabric of diversity and, therefore, a part of America's greatness. I think we go in cycles and we are entering a cycle where America will reaffirm its capacity to embrace all who are here. It's a melting pot. Gays and lesbians just have to take the time and effort and patience to reach out and teach about who we are. We are not that different.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

The military is very important now because it speaks to

something so basic, civil rights, that most Americans can relate to the issues. What the government and military do with this issue will speak volumes to the American public as to how gays and lesbians will be treated and where we stand as citizens in this country. A lot of it is symbolic, but America operates on a lot of symbolism.

What do you think the ultimate goal should be for the gay community?

A condition where we don't have to worry about these issues and can just live our lives and have the freedom to move about and express our love and affection for each other without notice, like everyone else. Complete incorporation and integration and acceptance to the point where these "issues" become "non-issues."

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

I totally disagree with those who think our infighting is holding us back. I think it is healthy to express the dif-



Joe Grubb

all human beings, not just gays and lesbians.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

Play safe — AIDS is a very real problem. We've lost too many brothers and sisters, especially now young people. We need you and your strength to carry on the message. I want you all here to live to a ripe old age.

What would you like to say to straight people?

We work with you, we are your children and your relatives and your friends and co-workers — take the time to get to know a gay person, our feelings and our fears, our dreams and our goals, and you'll find we are very much like you.

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

Our extensive community that spans race, gender, and many other social boundaries. Despite differences that are problematic for other communities, the gay and lesbian community came together in the face of AIDS and responded in a remarkable and beautiful way that reaffirms the potential of humanity. It's wonderful to see it manifest in the gay and lesbian community. ▼

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Trent Orr, of the Recreation & Park Commission

Is your position for the City, the County, or the State?

For the city and county of San Francisco.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was appointed by Art Agnos.

How long have you had your position?

About four years.

What is your party affiliation?

I'm a Democrat.

What is your age?

I'm 40.

How old were you when you came out?

At 30. I was a late bloomer, but I've tried to make up for lost time.

Where are you from?

Downstate Illinois.

At what age did you enter politics?

I've been active in working on campaigns since I was 17 or so: I worked on the McGovern campaign and have been active in environmental politics ever since.

Environmental politics?

Yes, I'm an environmental lawyer.

How did your sexual orientation affect your perceptions of your political viability?

Not much, having come out relatively late in life, and coming out in San Francisco after I had lived here for a couple of years.

Of course if I were interested in running for office it might have been a problem, but Art Agnos, who appointed me, was very much a friend of the community. And I have no interest in running for an office like supervisor — what could be worse?

Who are your political heroes and why?



Trent Orr helped to establish the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. (Photo: Rick Grubert)

Carole Migden, Roberta Achtenberg, Tom Ammiano. I have a lot of respect for Harry Britt, although he may have been in office too long.

And, until his recent military compromise thing, Barney Frank. We went to law school together, before either of us was out of the closet. He's really a brilliant guy; I just think it was a terrible thing he did, trying to make the compromise.

How do you see your role as a role model?

I think I have to make it known I'm gay, but that goes for everyone, whether you bag groceries or sit on a commission or whatever. Whenever anyone says anything homophobic at a commission meeting, I let them know exactly who they're dealing with.

Do you have a lover?

Yes, Brian Mikulak. We just got officially domestically partnered.

How much is he involved as a political spouse?

To some extent: he has his own activities and I have mine, but he goes to the board events with me.

What effect do you think the "gay vote" had on your appointment?

I think it is the reason for it. It's because there is such a large, educated, and dedicated gay vote that there are so many gay appointments, even by Frank Jordan — who is not nearly as good about that as was Art Agnos.

I'm always disappointed when neighborhoods with large concentrations of gay people don't get out the vote. I always wonder, "What the hell is the matter with them?"

What things have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

A couple of things stand out: I helped promote the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park by putting together meetings and helping to find a spot for it (although, obviously, that isn't just for the gay community), and we at Rec/Park inaugurated the first gay youth center — the Eureka Valley Recreation Center by Collingwood Park in the Castro.

What is your feeling: that America is growing more or less tolerant?

I think more. And although I'm not a fan of television, I have to think a lot of credit may go there. Sit-coms provide gay images — perhaps

they're stereotypical, but at least there are a lot of them, and they're usually better than movies' depictions.

And all those shows that I think are really dreadful, like Oprah and Phil, keep showing the country that there are a lot weirder things than being gay.

And now you've got Barry Goldwater out there, saying "Let gays in the military." That's something.

Speaking of which, if you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

A national gay rights law. An ERA for lesbians and gays. I know we still don't have one for women, but of course that should be corrected, too.

Then would you say a national gay rights law should be the ultimate goal for the gay community?

There's never an ultimate goal. The next thing may be transgender issues; who knows?

And there's this horrible health crisis that needs to be addressed.

Do you think that the community may be its own worst enemy because of infighting?

That's a problem here, maybe because there are so many big fish in this small pond, so many talented and ambitious people who moved here from everywhere else.

I understand that, but I don't have much patience with it. The people I admire are the coalition-builders.

What would you like to say to the lesbian and gay kids reading this?

One: if you want to meet other lesbian and gay kids, go to the Eureka Valley Rec Center, and two: being gay is not an obstacle.

To?

To anything.

What would you like to say to straight people?

The old cliché: we are everywhere. And we are playing an important role, in politics especially. ▼

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Jean Harris, Jordan Liaison and State Demo Party Leader

by Jeff Fast

Jean Harris, a self-described "in-your-face-dyke," serves as assistant to San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan and is his closest adviser about gay and lesbian issues. She has been active in California's Democratic Party for more than two decades.

And as assistant to the chair of the state party's finance committee, which directs Democratic monies to political office seekers, Harris, 48, is arguably one of the most powerful lesbian or gay public officials in California politics.

But politics and current events were only a passing thought for Harris until 1971, when she was 26, she said in a *Bay Area Reporter* interview. The spectacle of thousands of young men dying during the Vietnam War provoked her to join anti-war demonstrations in Southern California, and she has been a committed Democrat ever since.

Harris was still in the closet during her Vietnam experiences. In 1983, when she revealed her lesbianism and that she had a lover, her husband sued her for divorce and won custody of their two daughters. This experience, she said, provoked her militant attitude about gay and lesbian rights.

"I know the cost of discrimination because I've suffered from it firsthand," she said. "The lesbian and gay movement has been a part of every day of my life since then."

The political gains made by gays and lesbians during the past decade result from AIDS forcing the community to get organized. She believes that her own high-level polit-

ical position is due, in part, to the fact that heterosexuals have been forced to recognize the political viability of gays and lesbians.

"Lesbians and gays know how to do a good campaign cheap and straight people are learning that. We learned how to do this because of our experience with AIDS," said Harris. "We get pure volunteers, do grass-roots organizing, and we get out the vote."

Because of its diversity, Harris refers to the Democratic Party as a "mixed bag." Gays and lesbians donate tens of millions of dollars annually to political candidates, and she said she will use her position to direct party money to gay and lesbian political candidates.

"The best thing I can say about the Democratic Party right now is that it's bringing forward more choice," she said. "But it has a long way to go in representing the actual diversity of the party. As a member of the finance committee, I plan to see more of this money go to lesbian and gay candidates."

Setting the stage for gays and lesbians to win future elections is Harris' top priority as a public figure and gay role model, she said. To accomplish this task, she is organizing meetings with gay and lesbian leaders throughout California, including President Clinton's gay friend David Mixner, to discuss strategy.

For several years, Harris has been working to bring young lesbians and gays into the political arena. The best way to do this, she said, is to recruit them for volunteer work on campaigns, try to make it exciting for them, and let them know their work is appreciated.

"When people are trying to trash me because of the community's political infighting, I look to the youth, who are truly the future of our movement, for the courage to go on," she said. "Their commitment is honest and sincere and clean spirited. It inspires me."

"Be proud of who you are," is what I want to say to the young people reading

this. I know that you may feel alone, so find me or somebody like me, a lesbian or gay man, to talk to because we've been there also."

Harris said that her political heroes are former Supervisor Harry Britt, Malcolm X, Ho Chi Minh, and Mother Jones because they all courageously fought for their political beliefs.

Harris' lover, Carol Stuart, is also politically active. Stuart is an aide to Assembly member John Burton, is active with the Jewish Community and as an activist for the civil rights of prisoners. The two met while campaigning for San Francisco's domestic partnership ordinance in 1990. Having a political partnership with Stuart is fun, she said, because they both work for the same goal of civil rights, but through different venues.

In March, Harris ran unsuccessfully for secretary of the California Democratic Party, an elected office that, according to some, is less powerful than the position she now holds. She lost, but garnered a respectable 41 percent of the vote and showed her political muscle at the same time. Harris received endorsements from Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Jr. In addition, she got the unanimous support of several labor unions and the African-

American caucus — endorsements, she said, that were unprecedented for a lesbian or gay candidate. Despite this support, she said her loss was partially attributable to homophobia.

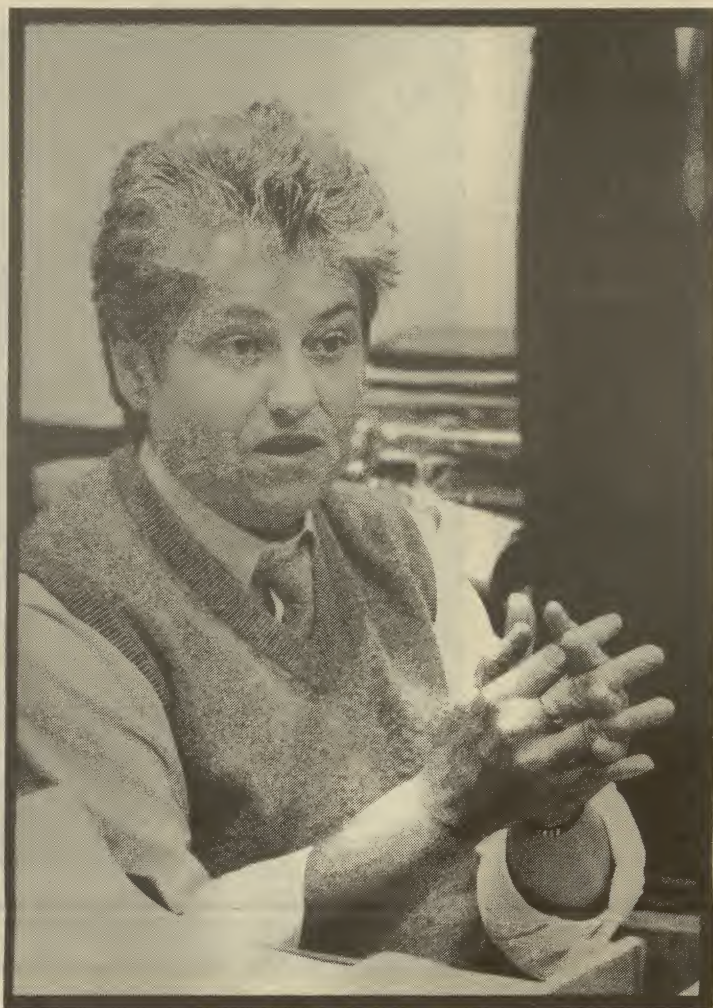
"We've come a long way when we can build these coalitions," she said. "I think in the future that when gays and lesbians team up with African Americans and labor, we'll be unbeatable," she said. "The Democratic Party just wasn't quite ready to let us in this time, but they're almost ready. It won't be long now."

Harris said that time and circumstances will dictate whether she again attempts to run for public office.

"It will depend," she said. "In a lot of ways, running for office was one of the most unpleasant experiences of my life that I don't want repeated. It can be humiliating. I don't need the extra work with what I'm already doing. But sometimes, a gay or lesbian has to come forward when nobody else will."

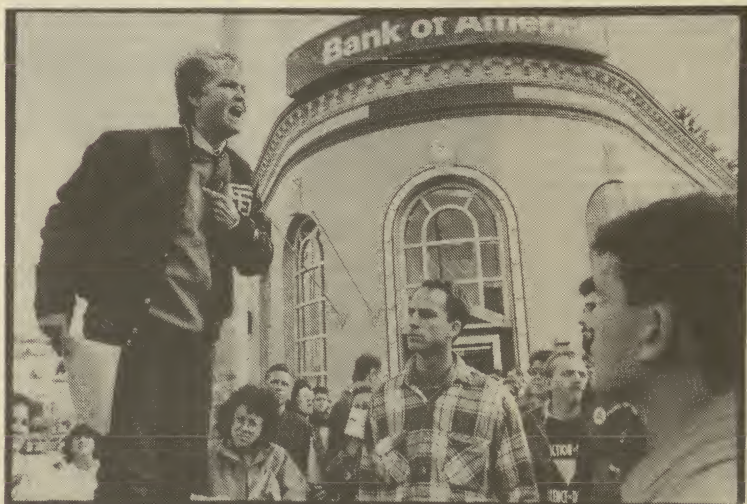
Achieving civil rights for everybody, not just homosexuals, should be the ultimate goal for the gay community, she said.

"We're the last in line to receive our human rights," she said. "So that means when we get there, we'll have built bridges with all of those who come before us." ▼



Jean Harris

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)



Jean Harris speaks at Harvey Milk Plaza.

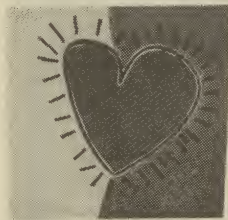
(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Interview with
Artist Todd Parr

Child's Play

by Roberto Friedman

Todd Parr's lively paintings, bright in primary colors and populated by stick figures, hearts, and animals, look like something a sixth-



grader might do. That simplicity is their strength, for their messages, such as "AIDS is not God's punishment," are serious indeed. Parr has designed the "Stop AIDS" T-shirts for a new Project Open Hand fundraiser; his pictures can be seen on the walls of the SoMa nightspot Julie's Supper Club, and will be showing at Josie's Cabaret during the month of July.

I spoke with the artist at the Orbit Room, on his way to deliver one of his canvases to Hospitality House, a donation for a fundraiser there.

•••••

Roberto Friedman: The first thing I noticed about your art is the tension between the subject matter and the children's art style. For example, "Help find the cure, time is running out" is illustrated by a melting snowman and three crying penguins. Have you always painted in this faux primitive way, ever since grade school?

Todd Parr: I wasn't good at art in school. I could never stay in the lines, that sort of thing. So I figured I wasn't an artist. Now, for years I've been designing fabric for men's clothes, T-shirts, furniture ... but I was becoming more angry about AIDS, and it was a time in my life where I wanted to express myself more. So I made these paintings.

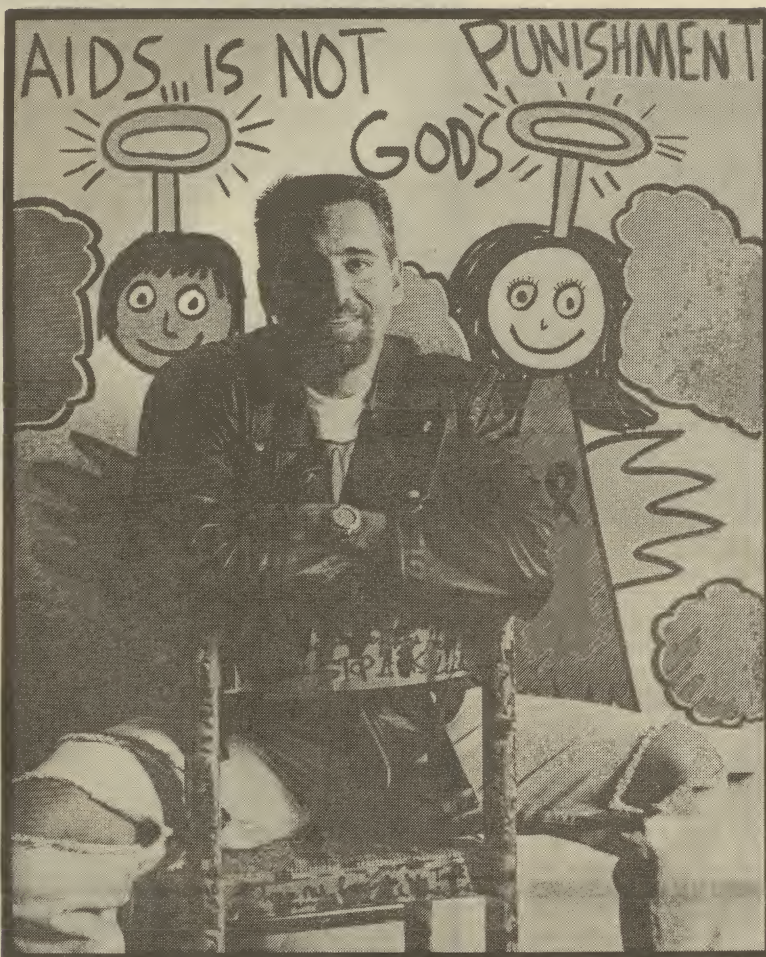
The cartoonish images, and the radiating lines around figures like the heart or lips, put me immediately in mind of Keith Haring. An influence of yours?

Haring made a big, big impression on me. From him I learned that it was okay to express myself in whatever way I could, that I was an artist, despite what I learned in school.

The painting of "Papa Bear, Papa Bear, and Baby Bear," all with big smiley faces, says more about the potential of gay families than any argument. It reminds me of the series Alyson Publications is doing, books like Heather Has Two Mommies for children in gay families. So sweet and yet so potentially subversive.

There's another one like that, it's "Mama Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear."

The pictures are so eye-friendly, and then you realize they are about matters of life and death. You say they came from a place of anger from you, but their effect is not angry. In fact, they are inviting in a way.



Artist Todd Parr poses in front of one of his canvases.

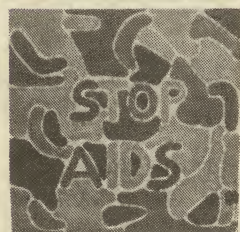
I'm finding that people are really moved by these paintings. Their emotions just im-

mediately come. I want my art to have an impact on people who wouldn't ordinarily be open to this type of art. And I'm happy to show it at places like Julie's and Josie's, so people see it who don't go to galleries.



As for the anger, yes I am angry. But anger would not work for me as a product. I'd rather relate to the kid in people who are older. This work is for myself; for the people I have lost; and for the people

"The children's style was a way of getting people's attention, people who might otherwise be turned off."



who created my anger, who say things like "AIDS is God's punishment."

I want to make people who don't think about it think about it. ▼



Todd Parr's Life



HIV, rendered as a three-eyed monster by Todd Parr

Local Actor's Life
in the Theatre

Successful Character

by Patrick D. Hoctel

I'm definitely a character actor," says local thespian John Balma. "I'm not an ingenue and I never was. I'm too odd-looking. I could pull off some leading men roles, but not many." However, that hasn't kept the 33-year-old California native from achieving theatrical success in the Bay Area, perhaps most notably as Edgar Allan Poe in the recent Climate Theatre production of *Claustrophobia*, though gay and lesbian theatregoers may remember Balma best as the original Donny in *Life of the Party*.

Between jobs as a "recorded phone sex voice" (and phone sex writer), maitre d' for two years at the Zuni Cafe, and now publicist for Carla Befera, Balma has starred as Rolf in the Magic Theatre's production of *Angel of Death*, as Iago and Tybalt in the Z Collective's *Goodnight Desdemona*, and as Pontius Pilate in the Asian American Theatre's *Case of the Missing Messiah*, among many other roles. He was also one of the founding members of the Z Collective (now the Z Studio) and this fall will appear in the SF Shakespeare Festival's *Twelfth Night* in Golden Gate Park. Recently Balma talked to the B.A.R. about his life and his work.

•••••

How did you become — or maybe more to the point — why did you become an actor? Did being gay somehow influence that choice?

I knew I wanted to be an actor — I had settled on it — by the time I was 11, and then got up the nerve to tell my parents when I was 13. I didn't know I was gay until I was 12, so the acting came first. I can't say that being gay had an influence on that.

What happened when you were 12?

My first orgasm. (laughs) After you learn to masturbate, you start fantasizing about things that are exciting, and my fantasies were of men.

I think I sidetracked you.

From childhood I was very interested in theatre and doing as much of it as I could. I was enamored of it. When I was 11, I saw a high school musical production of *My Fair Lady*, and Sigrid Wurschmidt was in it. She was an actress here in town, very successful, who unfortunately died of cancer. She blew me away, and I knew in



John Balma, as Edgar Allan Poe, examines JoAnne Winter's teeth in the recent production of *Claustrophobia* (Photo: Shane MacKay)

"When I approach a role, a character's sexuality is just another facet of the character, and you factor it in."
— John Balma

that moment that I wanted to do that, that I wanted to be up there.

Has being gay affected your acting, your style?

I honestly don't think of myself as a gay actor. I don't know what that would mean. I play a lot of straight roles, gay roles; I've even played female roles. When I approach a role, a character's sexuality is just another facet of the character, and you factor it in.

When I was in college, a professor pulled me aside and said, "You know, you've got a lot of talent, but you need to learn that all your characters don't need to be homosexual." And at the time he said this, I was doing a fop in a Moliere play, and I was kind of surprised by what he said because I thought here's this very flamboyant character and, of course, he would be gay. And he said, "It doesn't have to be, and it's a slight adjustment. Just think about

it." It was an interesting lesson to learn that just because someone's flamboyant doesn't necessarily mean that they're gay.

In my younger years, I definitely gravitated toward gay roles — or female roles. I thought they [female] were the better roles for the most part. They're so much more interesting. It was hard to get anyone to let me play those roles. But now I really don't think about it. I have a good range — I can play gay, straight, whatever.

Were you ever denied a role because you were gay?

That's a good question. If I was, I don't know. That sort of prejudice is very subtle. Actors endure rejection — lots of it — all the time. You can't pinpoint why. For every role I've played, there were probably 10-30 or more actors who were refused that role, so I cannot step out and say, "I lost that role because I was gay."

Interestingly — and I'll probably get myself in a lot of trouble for talking about this — I did one show at Theatre Rhinoceros many years ago. It was a big hit. Creating the character I did in it — a gay character — was a very difficult process. The director and I had a few arguments, but we eventually found it [the character] and I did very well — got sensational reviews.

They remounted the show twice, and I was the only cast member they didn't ask back. I was very hurt by that and didn't know why it was happening. But later another cast member told me that the director did not understand me as a gay man. And I asked him if he could elaborate on

that and he said, "You're not a typical gay. He can't pigeon-hole you. You're not a queen. You're not this, you're not that."

I was so upset to come up against that kind of prejudice. If I have to be a screamer to be accepted in gay theatre, then they can go to hell.

Was there ever a point in your career when you had to hide or ...

Butch it up? I was definitely concerned about it [being gay] in college, because growing up I was a sissy and no one ever let me forget that. I was ridiculed constantly, and I assumed that when I left my

hometown and got out in the world that people could just look at me and know I was gay. It was quite a shock to me to find out that that was not the case. So I was conscious of trying to act straight. I was always totally surprised when I would hear that audiences didn't know I was gay or meet people and they didn't know.

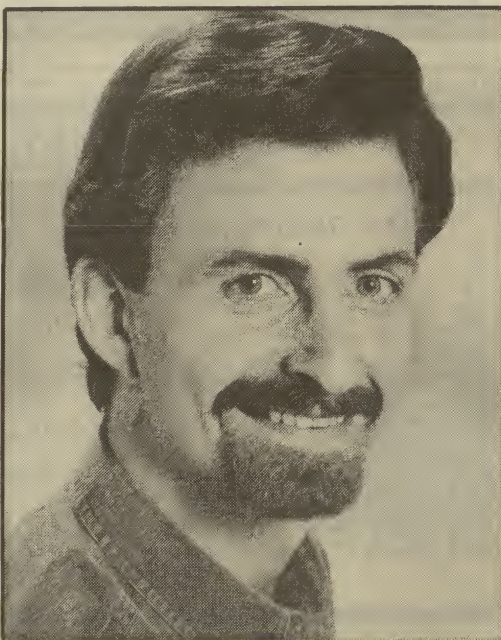
In college I had rather a light, airy voice. Another professor said, "You've got to work on that. You'll never get anywhere in the theatre with a lilting voice." They sent me to an opera instructor who worked with me for about a year, and I eventually developed what is now this big, deep, booming voice.

You had a huge personal success recently in *Claustrophobia*, playing Edgar Allan Poe. In fact, you won a Drama-Logue award for Best Performance. What was attractive about that role, drew you to it?

Frankly, it was kismet. I was a fish to water with that part. The language is good. Really difficult, really beautiful. I usually rise to those sorts of challenges — I like them. This was one of the best-written plays [by playwright and director Amy Freed] I've ever worked on, and it gave me a chance to show off my strengths, which are broad characterizations, big physicality, and my voice — which is a big asset.

What do you consider your dream roles?

The title role in *The Dresser* by Ronald Harwood. I'm a little young for that now, but in a few years, I'll be right for it. The brother, Gaev, in *The Cherry Orchard*, Elliot in *Private Lives* — a delightful role — and Hedda Gabler. ▼



John Balma, actor

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gay pride

Ed Harrington City Controller

by Dennis Conkin

As Controller for the City and County of San Francisco, Ed Harrington is easily the city's top — and highest-paid — non-elected official.

Appointed in 1991 by former Mayor Art Agnos to the ten-year post that pays over \$100,000 a year, Harrington is the city's chief financial officer, responsible for managing most of the city's \$2.5 billion annual budget including accounting, payroll, and internal audits.

Harrington, 43, is also essentially the chief information officer for the city; his staff handles programming and data processing for the city's 911 emergency, welfare, and assessor's system.

Harrington has long been active in Democratic Party politics — and was plucked for the post while treasurer of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club — but he now says he's become less active in local politics because of the job.

"Because of my position, it's not appropriate for me to endorse or contribute to local candidates, and because I have to work intimately with all local elected officials, I give contributions to national causes and candidates but I don't do it locally," he said.

Harrington told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's been out so long he "can't really remember when it became official."

"There is a date, I guess — but I've known I was gay forever," he said.

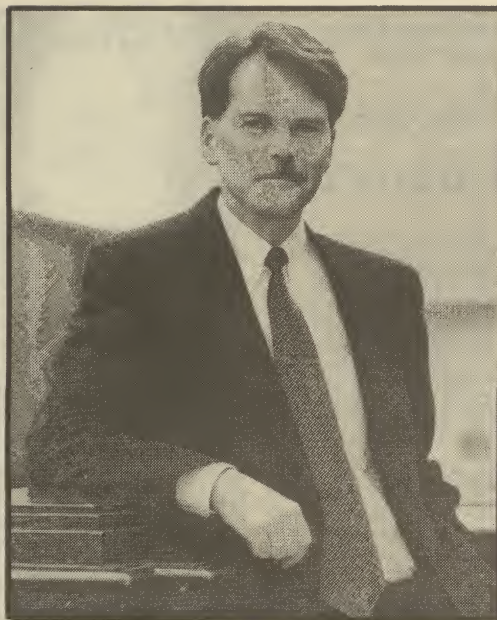
"I do remember a job, though, about 15 years ago where I wasn't out at work: a certified public accounting firm. My friends and family knew, but someone at work told me that I'd better watch out because there was a rumor going around I was gay. I said 'well, guess what, it's not a rumor,'" he recalls.

Harrington, a native of San Francisco, and a graduate of the University of San Francisco, said that his sexual orientation was probably a plus that led to his appointment as controller in a city whose progressive — and even moderate — politicians seem committed to diversity in government.

"Isn't that odd? I mean I was appointed because I was competent, but I was also not just one more straight white male," he said.

"When people see me quoted in the paper, it's not as 'gay controller Ed Harrington,' it's 'controller Ed Harrington.' But if gay kids knew that I was gay and saw that, I think it would be really positive because it would say that it's possible for them to grow up to be whatever they want."

Harrington's birds-eye view of the movers and shakers in local electoral politics has soured him a bit, in the face of their response to the



**"I'm sorry,
but I thought
the best thing
about being
gay was you
didn't have to
serve in the
military."**

city's massive \$180 deficit for the next fiscal year.

"The people I would have said were heroes are probably not to my mind anymore. If I had to pick who I think highly of in city government right now, it would be Carole Migden. She's probably the person I think is the best public servant around here these days," he said.

"To a large degree, the people who can jump through the hoops of the crazy electoral process we have now are not necessarily the best and the brightest. The best may not want to subject themselves to the crap," he said.

Harrington said that because he's a gay man renting an apartment in the Castro district, he's a little better in touch with city issues than some city bureaucrats who "are just told about the problems."

"As a gay person living in the Castro, I was there on October 6, 1989. I probably have a little different view about police crowd control policies than if I was just told about it."

"I rent my apartment in the Castro in the gay community. I have an understanding of the real effects of public health budget cuts from the point of view of someone who has friends who are sick and who have died, that use and have used the services. That colors how you try to make the system work."

Harrington says that he's been able to help a few times

when an AIDS organization couldn't get a check that was due from the city, and he could make a phone call and expedite the process.

"I think I would have more of a proclivity to try to help and make the system work than someone else might have before," he said.

Harrington believes that America is growing more tolerant of sexual minorities.

"That's why the religious right feels more threatened. If they lose us, who are they going to blame for the ills of the world? They don't have communism to blame any more."

Harrington said he's tired of the issue of gays in the military being pushed as the most important one facing the lesbian and gay community, and when asked what other issues are as important, he just laughs.

"Almost any other. I'm sorry, but I thought the best thing about being gay was you didn't have to serve in the military," he said.

The response isn't surprising for someone who refused induction when drafted during the Vietnam War and faced potential prosecution for the act of resistance.

"Health care issues for the lesbian and gay community as an issue, is just just so much more important," he said.

And, Harrington said, although there is political infighting in the gay community, he "doesn't think we are our own worst enemy." He gladly mentions Senators Sam Nunn and Jesse Helms as examples of real enemies of the lesbian and gay community.

Harrington says that it's unrealistic to expect the lesbian and gay community to speak with one voice because of the diversity of the community — and he also says that he's sick and tired of reading letters to the editor concerning Year of the Queer — and it's time for the community to move on.

"Get over it, and let's move onto something important." ▼

Municipal Court Judge Herb Donaldson

by Dennis Conkin

Appointed in 1983 to the San Francisco Municipal Court Bench by Governor Jerry Brown, 66-year-old Judge Herb Donaldson says, "I came out so long ago that I can't remember."

"Actually, it was in 1951," he chuckles.

Donaldson has been active in Democratic party politics

Oral sex was punishable by a 15-year state prison sentence in California — and sodomy was punishable by life in prison.

since 1977, but he's been active in gay rights issues since 1963, when he became involved with the historic Society for Individual Rights.

"At that time, there wasn't any thought of gays being involved in politics or public service. We were outlaws then. If you were 'out,' it meant that you were 'out' of the political process.

Donaldson was one of those arrested in 1965 when police raided a ball for homosexuals at the California Hall on Polk Street without a search warrant. The experience radicalized the local gay community.

The police, Donaldson said, tried to alarm the straight community by saying there were 70,000 homosexuals living in

San Francisco as a justification for the raid — and unwittingly helped the gay community develop its political muscle.

"Didn't the police think that local politicians would take note of that and take 70,000 votes seriously? They didn't realize that it would backfire," he said.

Donaldson says that one of his political heroes was Harry Truman — for issuing an executive order ending segregation in the U.S. military.

"I was in the Navy at the time he ordered the Armed Forces integrated. The first time I cast a vote in an election was when he was elected," he told the B.A.R.

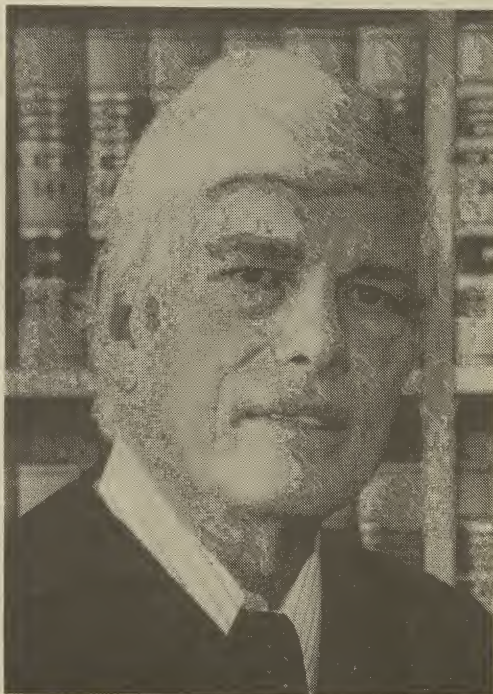
"There are all sorts of people I admire. I admired George Moscone. I liked Harvey Milk because he was brash and bold and determined to be elected to the Board of Supervisors. I remember he would stand on the corner of Market and Castro holding up signs. We were growing and gaining power," he said.

Donaldson says that he's really glad that because of the strides of the lesbian and gay community over the last three decades, "it never occurs to a lot of youth now that there are any impediments to any career that they choose. This is great."

Donaldson, on the other hand, remembers when oral copulation was punishable by a 15-year state prison sentence in California — and sodomy was punishable by life in prison.

Yet, for all the strides, Donaldson says that "the road to equality is never easy."

Donaldson says that he



Judge Herb Donaldson

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

gay community is "really after" is acceptance and integration.

"To just be part of the large-

er community," he said.

Donaldson said that political infighting and turf wars in the gay and lesbian communi-

ty are "part of the political process, part of the democratic process."

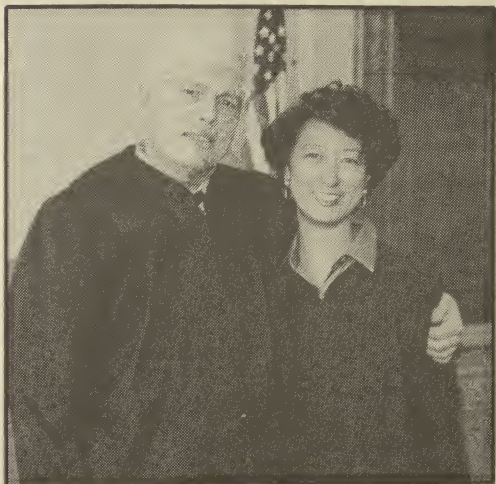
"Talk about infighting, look at the Democratic Party," he laughs. "The Democratic Party has never spoken with one voice and the lesbian and gay community doesn't ever speak with one voice," he said.

Donaldson urged youth

"It never occurs to a lot of gay youth now that there are any impediments to any career they choose. This is great."

coming to terms with the reality of their lesbian or gay sexual orientation "to be proud," but also said that sexual orientation is "just one aspect" of being a human being.

"Be proud of your whole being, including your sexual orientation, whether you are gay or straight," he says. "You can do anything you set your mind to." ▼



Judge Donaldson and Judge Lillian Sing

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Tom Horn, San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees

by Dennis Conkin

For the last 13 years — and three mayoral administrations — Tom Horn has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco War Memorial and the Performing Arts Center.

The board is responsible for setting policy and supervising maintenance and operation of the facilities and grounds that house the center, which includes the Opera House, Davies Symphony Hall, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Now 47, Horn, an attorney, says he came out at age 25 when he realized that his three-year heterosexual marriage wasn't going to work and he "decided that enough was enough."

Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the business side of a political family that included Calvin Horn — "the Willie Brown of the New Mexico Legislature for ten years" — Horn is out front about the difficulties he experienced coming to terms with the fact that he was gay.

"It was a small community and a conservative upbringing, we were members of the Southern Baptist Church, and there weren't a lot of gay people around," Horn told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And I was looking for a career in politics and didn't think you

could be gay and be in politics."

Horn even decided to join the Air Force as a way of fighting his sexual orientation, but of course that was no more successful than his marriage at turning him straight.

After watching his cousin run — and lose the campaign — for governor and Congress, and seeing his own career in student government at the University of New Mexico hit a dead end, Horn decided to set aside the dream of a life in politics.

"I just gave it up," Horn said. And it was then he came out of the closet.

But even without running for public office, Horn never gave up public service — and is now very active as a friend and supporter of former mayor and current California Senator Dianne Feinstein. Horn was appointed by Feinstein as general counsel of the Host Committee for the Democratic National Committee in 1984, and was appointed by John Molinari, then chair of the Board of Supervisors, to serve as chair of the Downtown Stadium Task Force that explored the feasibility of a downtown ballpark to replace Candlestick Park.

The onetime head of the Arizona chapter of American Civil Liberties Union, Horn, who has a criminal defense

and trial law practice, came to San Francisco in the 1970s, and although he says he's never been on the "cutting edge" of the lesbian and gay movement, those who know him might disagree. For his part, Horn describes his involvement in lesbian and gay political life and the affairs of the city as more of a "supporting role."

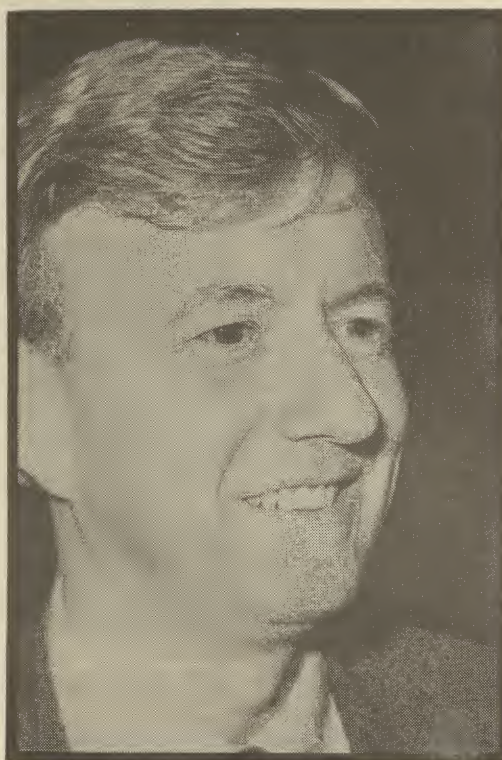
"I had great admiration for Harvey Milk. He was a dear friend along with Roberta and Carole and Cleve Jones. I have enormous respect for my friends who are on the cutting edge," he said.

Horn says that he thinks that heterosexual America is becoming more tolerant of lesbians and gays because of "education and experience," but he worries about polarization.

"I think many people who were not tolerant of homosexuals didn't know about us, but those who held prejudices out of ignorance have become more tolerant and open minded. Even though there are communities of tolerance like San Francisco, there are still a lot of rednecks out there."

In fact, "there are a lot of rednecks, even here," he laughed.

Horn says that although there's been a great deal of press attention over the gays in the military issues, that AIDS is still the biggest concern facing the community.



Tom Horn

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

"AIDS is the number one issue in our community. No other issue in the community is as important," he said.

Horn has been active in AIDS issues since the beginning of the epidemic in 1982 when he served as a member of the founding board of the Kaposi's Sarcoma Research and Education Foundation,

the forerunner of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Horn also served on the board of the now defunct National Gay Rights Advocates, a public interest law firm.

Horn is also active in the fundraising arm of the PAC and is on the board of directors of the San Francisco Ballet Association. ▼

Nick Roomel, of the Film & Video Arts Commission

Is yours a City, County, or State position?

City and county.

Were you appointed or elected?

I was appointed by Mayor Jordan, a year and a half ago.

What is your party affiliation?

I changed from Republican to Democrat because Clinton was willing to take on the gay issue and health issues. He seemed really up front.

What Do You Think About "Year of the Queer?"

I come from an era when "queer," "dyke," and "faggot" were really derogatory and dehumanizing. I understand the rationale and I know it's a younger generation having its day, but it's difficult and offensive to me personally — but I'm not boycotting the celebration.

How old were you when you came out?

I was always out: I've known since I was eight that I had an affinity for men. It

was dangerous to come out then, however, because parents were keen on putting gay children into mental wards and giving them hormone shots to alter the balance. Many of my friends have hormone problems to this day because of it. In school it was impossible to come out and parents could and usually did legally disown gay children who came out.

At what age did you enter politics?

I've never cared anything about, and have consciously tried to avoid, politics. I'm just not involved, but I knew Frank Jordan before he was even police chief. He's a good person. He ran for mayor and I helped however I could in the gay community to get him elected. I had faith in him. He's thoughtful and caring and a good man, I think.

I first entered politics during Reagan's administration through Nancy's drug and alcohol program. Reagan appointed me President of the Republican Party task force on drugs and alcohol.

Who are your political heroes and why?

Obviously Frank Jordan. But we're really the heroes — we help the politicians become the heroes, but it's really all of us.

What effect did the "gay vote" have on your appointment?

I've always believed the gay vote was critical. I've been interested in putting together some sort of caucus that could bring the various and diverse elements of our community together to really work for a gay and lesbian "voting block." We're growing towards it out of necessity.

What issues have you dealt with that have had the greatest effect upon the gay community?

The Caring Committee of the Screen Actors Guild. We have created a video library for ward 5A and are now moving into the children's AIDS wards to supply videos to patients.

The Committee works in conjunction with the Mayor's

Film and Video Commission and the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG). I brought these groups together to bring this library into being. Within six months we will have a lending situation and deliver videos to home-bound AIDS patients, like Open Hand, only videos instead of food — visual food.

Our library has a gay focus for 5A, but we do have a different selection for children and straight patients. I also have created a library and storage facility at city hall where we are storing our collection until we turn it over to the hospital.

I'm also proud of the impact of St. Paulus church that recently took sixty women off the streets who had fallen through the cracks of the system. Most with AIDS, all with drug and alcohol problems. We take everyone and anyone who has fallen through the cracks. We are a non-profit and self-sufficient, but we are now seeking city funds to continue supporting these sixty women.

The other important involvement is the Freedom From Alcohol and Drug Commission. We work again with people who fall through the cracks because of alcohol and drug problems, AIDS, Methadone, dual diagnosis persons. We take all. These three involvements definitely impact the community.

If you could replace the gays in the military issue with any other, what would it be?

America is locked into a puritanical attitude that predates our founding fathers. There should be no discrimination in our society, but people have forgotten the basic concepts of "freedom for all, inalienable rights," and the foundations of our constitution. I don't think we need new laws to reinforce what is already in our constitution, we need a reawakening of the basic concepts of this country. The military, however, is a pivotal issue at this time and place in our movement, so we have to deal with it; so does straight America. Other issues like housing, health, employment are critical, but the military issue is up, so we deal with it now. We have to take as much at a time as we can because we're breaking down straight conditioning.

What is the one characteristic or accomplishment of the gay community that makes you feel the most pride?

Brother and sisterly affection and the fact that we have endured for centuries, no matter what the situation or condition. We are survivors and succeeding — that fills me with pride. ▼

Supervisor Carole Migden

by Dennis Conkin

Although she says she "had an awareness" of her lesbian sexual orientation throughout her teenage years, San Francisco Supervisor Carole Migden didn't really come out until she left her husband at 26.

"I was a child of the '60s; we were anti-war activists; even before I was publicly lesbian, I was a political activist involved in the social change movement," Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Today at 44, Migden says that anyone who can't handle the fact that she's a lesbian would also probably dislike her progressive politics.

"I think, frankly, that those who would deride and disparage my leadership based on my sexual orientation would probably be the same people that would reject me because of my politics, but I don't think in San Francisco that's a hindrance," she told the *B.A.R.*

Elected in 1990, during the city's historic Lavender Sweep that also saw the election of Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, Board of Education Member Tom Ammiano, and the successful defeat of a domestic partners legislation effort, Migden prefers to "eschew the question" when asked about her political heroes and says that the lesbian and gay community are her heroes and heroines because of "their struggle to live full, productive, and dignified lives."

"I don't know if it has to do with an issue or whether it's the era, but it seems like we



Supervisor Carole Migden and Senator Dianne Feinstein

are entering a time when there is an expanding recognition and acceptance of lesbian and gay people. Perhaps it's because of the increasing number of lesbians and gays in public office, maybe it's a consequence of national lesbian and gay leadership in Washington," she said.

But whatever the reason, Migden believes that more and more people in America are becoming accepting of the lesbian and gay community even as the right wing — and virulent homophobes — become more entrenched.

As always, people who know lesbian and gay people like us," she said.

Migden said that Harvey Milk's historic advice to come out of the closet "is still sound

and simple. ... Coming out is the single most important political act for lesbians and gays."

Migden says that the issue of lesbians and gays in the military is important — but only a part of the struggle for justice and acceptance.

"There is a split, but those who are bigots will always be bigots."

"But once again, we're after very basic things like the ability to get a job and keep it and not be fired because of our sexual orientation, to not be tossed into the street because of our sexual orientation, to not be bashed and used at will by detractors and other hostile forces," she said.

"We want the opportunity to have health care that meets our particular needs such as HIV and AIDS, so that les-

bians can have access to health services that respond to their high risk for cancer. We're just seeking basic opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives," said Migden, a psychologist with a background in health care management.

Although she's a political veteran, Migden dismisses turf wars and infighting in the gay community as overplayed by the press "to sell newspapers," and while she says that there are a lot of issues about which people disagree, she also said there are issues of common concern in the diverse community — even though people may disagree and there may be tension.

"These are desperate and difficult times, a lot of issues are at stake. There are legitimate frictions that emerge with differences of opinion, that's not necessarily inappropriate," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Migden said that she wants her leadership to be an example to gay youth who are "growing up in an era of AIDS, the emergence of right-wing fundamentalists and fascists and the Jesse Helmses of America, and the realities of the present political climate," and says that the "new and emerging vision and voice of youth" is extremely important to the lesbian and gay movement.

"They have much to teach us," she said.

Frequently referred to by the straight press as a Mayoral hopeful but unwilling to state if such a rumor is true, Migden says that the mere fact that she's often described in those terms is an example of the power of coming out — and the gains of the lesbian and gay community.

BAY AREA REPORTER

"We're after very basic things, like the ability to get a job, to not be tossed into the street, to not be bashed and used at will by detractors and other hostile forces."

"It means that this city is proving itself to be accepting and supportive of lesbians and gays in positions of authority. It's a tremendous statement of respect and recognition," she said.

But Migden — a member of the Democratic National Committee, the executive board of the California State Democratic Party, chair of the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee and chair of the Board of Supervisors powerful Finance Committee — says that her life isn't all work.

"I have a lover, Chris Arguedas, whom I've been with for the last eight years. She's a big supporter of my political involvement and does all that's required to help meet the obligations of my political life and also have a balanced and richly rewarding personal life." ▼



Carole Migden at her swearing-in ceremony.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

San Francisco Writer
Cathy Cockrell

Looking From an Angle

by Patrick D. Hoctel

Cathy Cockrell is a fiction writer, journalist, teacher, editor, and activist who's resided in San Francisco for the past six years. The author of two books of short stories, *Under-shirts and Other Stories* and *A Simple Fact*, her work has also appeared in various anthologies such as *Women on Women: An Anthology of Lesbian Short Fiction*, *Word of Mouth: 150 Short Stories by Women*, and *Through Other Eyes: Animal Stories by Women*.

Prior to coming to San Francisco, the 41-year-old Cockrell lived in New York City for 11 years, during which time she was an editor at Liberation News Service, an alternative news network begun by anti-war and student activists in the late '60s. Later she worked as an editor on an electronic publishing project of the New York Times. Shortly after moving to the West Coast, she became the assistant news editor at the *San Francisco Sentinel*, where she profiled a diverse group of lesbians and gays — a Vietnamese refugee, a radical botanist, a disability activist — in the *Sentinel's* Queer Folk series.

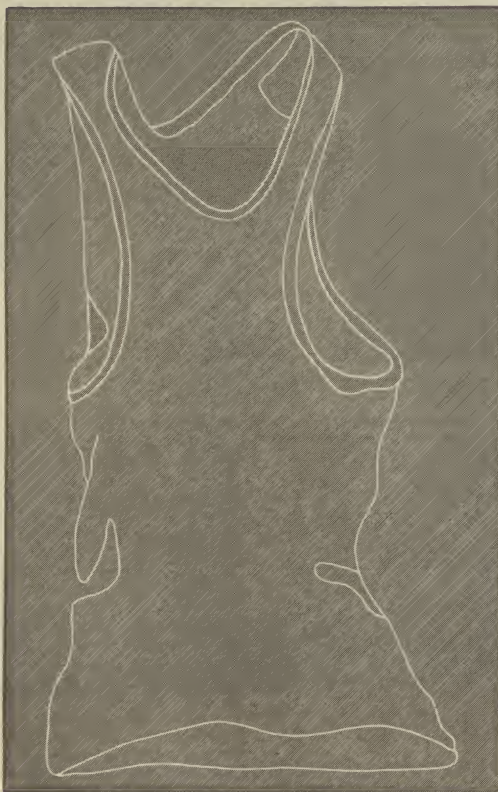
Currently Cockrell is finishing up an MFA in creative writing at San Francisco State, where she also taught the past year, and hopes to finish her first novel "within a year." She spoke recently with the B.A.R. over lunch about her fiction, political work, teaching, and being a lesbian.

• • • • •

Patrick D. Hoctel: In your work you seem to explore what I would call "relationship issues," whether that be between lovers, parent and child, friends, pet and pet lover, etc. How would you describe your work and is this what you primarily see it as being about?

Cathy Cockrell: It's always interesting to hear someone else characterize your work — what they see in it. In the second book, *A Simple Fact*, I didn't set out to write about a theme, but when I finally looked at the book, all the stories had to do with families in some way or another, even though the really long title story was about racism.

I would describe my work as being about consciousness,



even though, in a sense, everyone's writing about that. Like in "A Simple Fact," it's about what's going on in the person's head, her mind, versus what's operating on the surface.

You've been active in progressive politics and various kinds of political work and journalism. Has that crossed over into your fiction, left its mark?

Well, it's definitely subject matter. I'm trying to write a novel about the late '70s in New York City, in the U.S., and people who were very political at the time. It's very hard to write about that era, not to caricature it, and yet, there's something that was very wonderful about that era that's missing now — a really social world that was also really political. I feel like I'm trying to do something which is to write artfully and politically — and I don't want to be a rhetorical writer, and I don't want to be a writer about subject matter, either. I'm always afraid I might be going over to one side or the other.

You taught an introductory creative writing course at San Francisco State this past year, and I know there were gay students in your classes. Did your being a lesbian make them more comfortable with, more open about their sexuality, or did it tend to have the opposite effect?

There were about four gay men in my second semester class. There were some women who were bisexual, and maybe one lesbian — but I wasn't sure about that. One guy, he worked for Chevron, was really an activist, and it was great for me that he was so out and I think I was really good for him. I haven't direct-

Sometimes when I was teaching, I found that the students and their work were having more of an effect on me and my work than I was having on them. Did you have that experience?

That's an interesting question. My teaching has been so recent that I haven't had a chance yet to see how it will affect me, but it certainly makes you think about writing in a different way. You see that the problems you're struggling with are the problems that they're struggling with. On the flip side of worrying about how it might affect your work negatively, when you see people doing things over and over that are problematic in writing, you learn from that. I do worry sometimes that if you went on teaching and writing endlessly that it might become this commodity to you — a mill with you churning out your responses to stories.

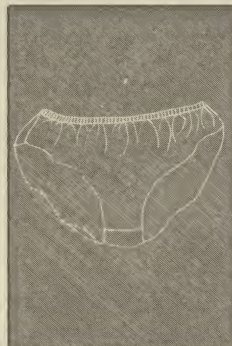
How has being a lesbian affected, influenced, informed your art?

First thing, in subject matter. And when you're a lesbian, you're never right in the center of the culture. There's something about that line of vision that's not straight on but looking from an angle at things. You're able not only to see things but also to critique them. This is a really bankrupt culture in a lot of ways.

You spoke earlier about the novel you're working on. I

**"When you're a lesbian, you're never right in the center of the culture."
— Cathy Cockrell**

I worried some about what would be the repercussions of coming out to them, but I wanted to. It affected my choice of what the readings were, having more gay material, more outside speakers.



wondered if you could be a bit more specific about it and also discuss your writing process.

I'm quite interested in history, so this takes place in the '70s, with portions in the '50s and '60s. It's a relationship story — you were right (laughs) — about a woman in her twenties who's having a relationship with a lesbian who came out before Stonewall, so it encompasses a span of gay life. The younger woman is living with her aunt and uncle in New York, and the aunt is a medieval historian, reading medieval history. So there's a little bit of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and the 11th century!

I discovered when I went away to a writers colony for a long period of time that that worked well for me — to have a big block of time to write. But now I'm trying to integrate my writing more into my life because you have to — unfortunately. I've been trying to get back into the novel, and for a while, I've just been writing about it. Finally, I'm starting to be able to write a scene.

I really lose track of time when I write. I look up from the page, and it'll be five hours later. That's kind of the wonderful part of writing. When I wrote the "A Simple Fact" story, I went for two weeks to a writers colony in Massachusetts, and it just poured out, 40 pages. It's an incredible experience when that happens. It makes all the hassle of writing worthwhile. You give up a lot in your life to be a writer. ▼



Author/activist Cathy Cockrell

One Question Leads to
Another for 'Celluloid Closet'
Editor Arnold Glassman

Breaking The Code

by Daniel Mangin

"What is a gay movie? Is it just a film with gay characters? Is *Breakfast at Tiffany's* a gay film because it was by a gay author or is it because thousands of men became gay when they saw Audrey Hepburn eating a Danish in front of Tiffany's? Is it because Holly Golightly could easily be a gay hustler?"

A month or so after he's signed on as editor of the film version of Vito Russo's *The Celluloid Closet*, Arnold Glassman has as many questions as he has answers as he tries to get a handle on 100 years of gay representation in the cinema.

Glassman, co-director and editor of *Visions of Light*, a high-profile 1992 documentary about the art of cinematography, is a natural addition to the team headed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. He's just faced many of the problems they're facing — obtaining clips from major studios, trying to organize scenes from several dozen films into a coherent whole.

We spoke about the project, gay media activism — and why he liked *Basic Instinct* — in his San Francisco editing suite one afternoon in late May, just as he was completing a first "rough assembly" of historical material.

•••••

Daniel Mangin: Are you surprised by what you're discovering as you examine all the films Vito Russo mentioned in his book?

Arnold Glassman: Yes. I'm used to seeing these films as a whole, then suddenly there's Greta Garbo kissing her lady in waiting in *Queen Christina*. I remembered always being bored with the film, but looking at it in this context heightened my interest.

There is this whole double gay element running around: she's dressed as a man, John Gilbert thinks she's a man. Then he realizes she's a woman, but his servant thinks that he's in bed with another man. And the lady in waiting, which is based on a true story. So the film still may be dull to me as a whole, but I'm fascinated by this element.

Or *Rebel Without a Cause*, taking out the Sal Mineo role and magnifying that — without putting words in anyone's mouth — by showing a possi-



Garbo as Queen Christina

ble gay subtext. There's James Dean, with his father wearing the apron, and Sal Mineo with his picture of Alan Ladd in his locker. That scene when Dean gives him his jacket is so intimate.

Some might think you're reading too much into that because you're starting from a "gay point of view."

I'm being very careful not to read anything into it. But a film like *Rebel* or *Calamity Jane* with Doris Day — I'm amazed every time I see *Calamity*. Doris in butch drag or singing "A Woman's Touch" has an effect on gay audiences, and that is enough of a justification to include it in a film that's about gay and lesbian characters. *The Celluloid Closet* is not only about gay portrayals but also the reactions audiences have had to these films.

Appropriating imagery is one thing, but what do you say to someone who says about Laurel and Hardy's Their First Mistake, that they didn't mean it as a gay gag?

They don't mean it as a gay gag, but they do mean it as a role play. They have this scheme going where if Oliver Hardy has a baby his wife will be so busy with it he'll be able to go out with Stan and the wife won't complain.

When they come home with the baby, they give their neighbor a cigar and show

him the baby. Very offhandedly he says congratulations and walks into his apartment. Later, Stan pretends to nurse the baby by pulling out a bottle out of his nightshirt. So it's playing with roles, not gay gags.

I think they are gay gags. L&H showed a lot of insight into male/female relations in that film. Who's to say they weren't aware of the homosexual overtones as well?

People weren't as uptight about that stuff back then, so artists were free to do it. Like Dietrich kissing a woman in *Morocco*. Having fun with that image, knowing it was potent.

So what changed?

The world changed. The production code appeared. European films were becoming more explicit. MGM production chief Irving Thalberg saw *Maedchen in Uniform*, which is pretty clearly about lesbian emotion, and decided to make the *Queen Christina* subplot a little more pronounced because he figured, oh, lesbians are good box office. Suddenly, though, the brakes went on in the mid-1930s.

What period intrigues you the most?

The '50s, because everything was so coded. All the Tennessee Williams plays

that were altered for film. Blanche's monologue about her husband — in the play of *Streetcar Named Desire* he's described as effeminate; on film she says he "wrote poetry."

Say no more.

Or camouflaging the whole story about Brick and Skipper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Or *Suddenly Last Summer*, when they decide to tackle the gay character but never show his face and his whole story is so grotesque.

Those '50s movies were so concerned with environmental causes and possible cures.

Yes. Tea and Sympathy. They really thought that having sex with Deborah Kerr would cure a boy of homosexual tendencies.

It's one of those films where they pretend it isn't really about homosexuality.

They're always about something else. "Human emotions," or with AIDS they're "about people taking care of each other" instead of about gay men. If it's an unpopular subject, filmmakers will always say it's not about what it's about. Even if it's right up there on the screen.

Take *Three of Hearts*, which involved a lesbian situation. The way they promoted it was very confused. By not marketing it one way or the other, they don't get the straight audience and they don't get the gay audience — nobody goes to see it.

How intentional is the stereotyping in films today?

Filmmakers still think they can just throw in a character like George Carlin's swishy character in *Prince of Tides*. It's irresponsible filmmaking not to care about how offensive they are. I'm sure the director of *Prince of Tides* (winks) was well-meaning about this, but then films like *Beverly Hills Cop* and *Teen Wolf* toss in general fag lines.

(Continued on next page)

**"The Celluloid Closet is not only about gay portrayals but also the reactions audiences have had to these films."
— Arnold Glassman**



Marlene Dietrich in *Morocco*.

gay pride = gay empowerment

(Continued from previous page)

I sometimes wonder with those teen movies if producers don't just order up a gratuitous slur or two as a matter of course.

Because they can get a laugh. I also think that some of the filmmakers are young themselves and just don't read these things as offensive.

How would you respond to the logic that "this is just the way kids talk about fags"?

I'd ask where is the character who says that what they're saying is wrong? Where's the gay character? Where's their gay friend? You have to ask if they really think that audiences require that kind of humor or nastiness when they see a movie ... and therefore they start talking like that so it just repeats itself over and over again.

For different reasons, you're a fan of both *Silence of the Lambs* and *Basic Instinct*.

With *Silence*, I think it's a great film. The villain is so off-the-wall that I don't think of it as a negative role. I don't think Jonathan Demme has a responsibility to present the only positive gay character in a movie. It's not his fault that there aren't 20 other characters to counteract his.

On the other hand, the excuse is always that my film isn't saying all gays are evil. But when you add them all up, that's the message.

So now he's making *Philadelphia*, which is gay-positive. But there's another issue. Here we have people agonizing over whether to put gay characters in films, or whether to change them from gay to straight, and coming out of England there are so many films that so offhandedly, without any effort, are including gay characters. They put all the films in America to shame.

Where should we be putting our energies in trying to coax Hollywood along?

The best thing for Hollywood is to realize that there are large audiences for films like *My Own Private Idaho* or *Longtime Companion* or *Desert Hearts*, that might be uneven in a lot of places but still are inspired.

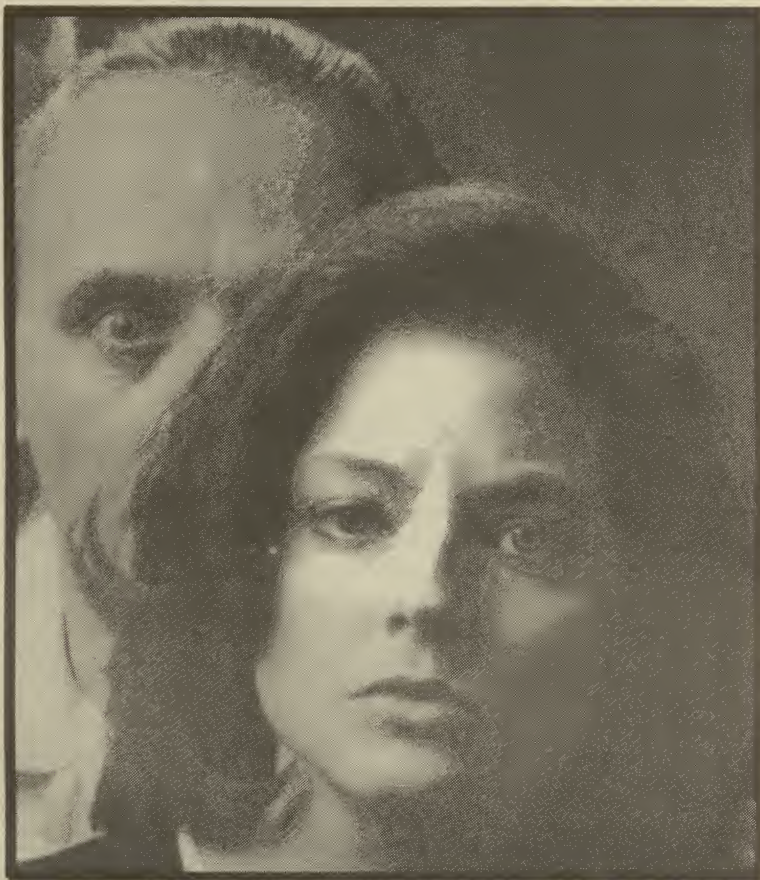
Or *The Crying Game*. People respond to *The Crying Game* not just because someone drops a bathrobe and genitals are shown. They react to it as a love story.

Of course most of them went not knowing about the gay angle. Did they have to be tricked or would they have gone voluntarily had they heard it was a good thriller but with a gay subplot?

They were tricked, but audiences like to be tricked, they like to be surprised.

Why did it have to be made outside of Hollywood?

They would never have



Jodie Foster, backed up by Anthony Hopkins in *Silence of the Lambs*.

made a film on that subject that way.

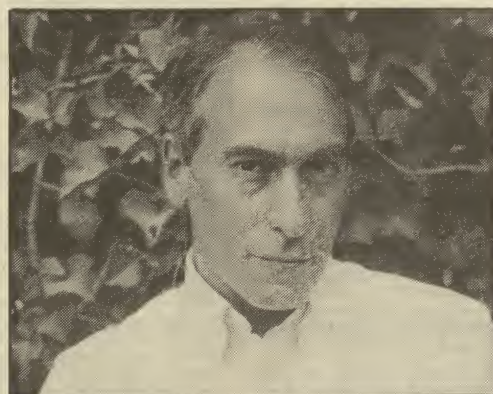
They would have if they'd known it would gross 12 times its cost in domestic rentals.

Hollywood works off the tried and true. *Basic Instinct* is what you can expect out of Hollywood. Regardless of politics, *Basic Instinct* was a very well-made guilty pleasure of a movie.

That was a horribly made film. I understand the guilty pleasure part — it's pulpy enough — but the characters are ludicrous, the car chases are incompetently shot and edited, the music is bombastic ...

OK! OK! It was totally incoherent! The plot was stupid, but I liked Sharon Stone. I was watching it with my partner in crime at 1:30 a.m. — I rented it for a dollar, only a

dollar — and I'm saying, "This is revolting, but we have to watch the rest of it." I'm per-



Film director/editor Arnold Glassman

"If it's an unpopular subject, filmmakers will always say it's not about what it's about. Even if it's right up there on the screen."
— Arnold Glassman

plexed about it. It's politically rotten, but I did enjoy it.

Do you think that was a good one to call Hollywood on?

It was, absolutely. I don't think *The Silence of the Lambs* was, especially attacking the leading actress as a person who should have been more socially responsible. That's her own private life. I think the director has very much taken into account what the public had to say about the film.

Without repudiating it, he has acknowledged the protests, which makes me think they had value.

I absolutely agree. I'm playing both sides here. That psychopath was a throwback to the old movies where the characters' sexuality defines their behavior. So in that sense *Silence* was a good one to call Hollywood on. But one can't ever look to Hollywood for enlightenment.

What about the *Basic Instinct* protests?

The majority of people didn't know what they were about. They just kept hearing the name, which was good for the producers.

And that gays and lesbians have complaints about representation.

Any kind of publicity is good — for both sides. And for gay people who have some influence, perhaps the protests made them feel they shouldn't let this happen again. Or maybe they were moved to become more visible. Maybe they'll look at *Basic Instinct*



Sharon Stone takes a licking, but keeps on ticking in *Basic Instinct*. Co-conspirator: Michael Douglas

and say, "Oh, this had lesbian characters, maybe audiences do want to see these characters."

The film's success tells me they want to see lesbians who fit a particular mold. Predatory, et cetera.

But it goes beyond that. Look at *Three of Hearts*. Kelly Lynch is like that, too. Positive/negative, it doesn't matter. People are not going to see a film that's bad. The answer is to keep on top of things, but you have to remember that important issues are always lightened up in Hollywood films. You can't forget that. ▼

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The San Francisco parade contingent from this year's March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian, and Bi Equal Rights

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

CHANGE

by Robert Julian

Everything has changed in the last 12 months. America watched as lesbians and gays drastically altered the political and social landscape of this country by becoming major players in national and local elections. An incumbent president got thrown out of office and replaced by a more gay-friendly candidate. The subsequent March on Washington continued to focus media attention and the popular consciousness on the issue of equal treatment under the law for homosexuals. San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg became the first openly lesbian presidential appointment. And the prospect of lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military set off a national debate that is still raging. Did you ever think you'd see Barry Goldwater and Larry Kramer on the same side of any issue?

In film, the phenome-

nal success of *The Crying Game* and Jaye Davidson's subsequent Oscar nomination transformed and legitimized the presentation of homosexuality and gender in mainstream film. Hollywood took notice.

In the theatre, gay-themed plays won Tony Awards for both Best Play (*Angels in America*) and Best Musical (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*). The gay actors who were nominated for their performances in these plays attended the nationally telecast ceremony in the company of their lovers or same-sex companions. Stephen Spinella, when picking up his acting award for *Angels*, thanked his lover, whom he described as "the husband of my heart."

On television, gay characters were popping up all over the tube — and not in the usual stereotypical roles. *Roseanne*, the top-rated television show in the country, gave Sandra Bernhard a recurring

role as an out, well-adjusted lesbian. They even gave her Morgan Fairchild as a love interest.

In publishing, it became simply impossible to keep up with the explosion of literature for a gay audience. In addition to an endless number of books, several new national gay magazines emerged like *Out*, *Genre*, and *10 Percent*. Then there was that proliferation of catalogs that merchandise our lifestyle through the mail. With all this competition for the queer dollar, one can almost see a gay QVC looming on the cable horizon.

And who do we have to thank for all this? Not the politicians, or the filmmakers, or the playwrights, or the networks, or the authors, but ourselves. It takes a queer nation full of commitment and determination to make all these things happen, and that is exactly what we have. Each and every man or woman who comes out

completely, at home and at work, becomes an activist — even if they never mention the subject of homosexuality again after coming out. The conspiracy of silence is broken by their act. Once someone knows, they can never again not know.

The great benefit of the changes that have taken place in the last year is this: Every young boy or girl in this country, sometime during the last 12 months, has almost certainly picked up a newspaper or magazine, or turned on the television and been confronted with the word "lesbian" or "gay." If they didn't know what those words meant, they asked questions. And regardless of what kind of answers they got, they were presented with an expanded concept of the possible, the existence of a world beyond the stifling monochromatic veneer of mainstream heterosexuality. Maybe those children who are destined to be gay will

not have to grow up with that lonely feeling of isolation, that sense of being "the only one" of their kind. This is progress.

Among the thousands of visitors who come to San Francisco each year for the gay parade, there are always those who have a revelation — an epiphany, if you will. Dozens, maybe hundreds of individuals experience the joy, power, and freedom gay people have in our city. They go home, and they transform their lives and the lives of those around them by coming out. And the world around them adjusts. That's what happens.

Keith Meinhold remarked recently, "This is not a country that was founded on the concept of people being given their rights. Those who want their rights in this country have always had to fight to obtain them." We have, we do, and we will. This is just cause for celebration. ▼

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OutThere

The Annals of Queerdom

by Robert Julian and Orland Outland

The happiest film project in recent history wrapped in San Francisco last week — Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*. This six-hour mini-series for British television turns up on KQED sometime early next year (it debuts in England on Channel 4 this September). At a KQED-sponsored party atop the Transamerica pyramid, Olympia Dukakis, Chloe Webb, and Marcus D'Amico expressed their love of the script, the project, the author, each other, and San Francisco. Chloe Webb, who gives great dish, told Out-There of the nude beach scene they shot in L.A. — a scene where Michael (D'Amico) tells Mona (Webb) that he loves her, but it will never work out between them. Says Webb, "All these naked guys were prancing and dancing around the beach behind us, and I had to sit there, staring into Michael's eyes while this very well hung man's penis is flopping up and down at eye level, right behind Michael's head. It was very difficult to concentrate." Were all those naked boys queer? According to Armistead, the assembly was "A third gay, a third straight, and a third who'll do anything for money."

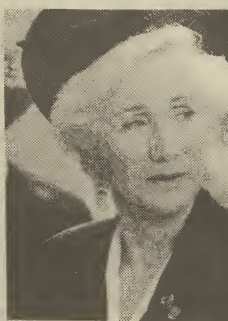
Rumor has it, the sold out sneak preview at tomorrow's Gay Film Fest will be Joan Greyson's *Zero Patience*, a musical comedy send-up of *And the Band Played On*. Now that's comedy! The cast and crew from the HBO version of Randy Shilts' factoid novel, currently completing production in San Francisco, will probably try sneaking into the sneak. And well they should. We hear Greyson's \$4.5 million production is quite a goof.

The *Village Voice*'s gossip columnist Michael Musto gives his "Je M'Appelle Asshole" Award to actor D.B. Sweeney. Several weeks ago, Musto wrote offhandedly that Sweeney was easily confused with actors who looked like him and even had similar names, including D.W. Moffett, Dylan McDermott, and Dermot Mulroney. Well, Sweeney called Musto's answering machine and left this message: "This is D.B. Sweeney. Keep me out of your faggoty-assed column! I may live in the West Village, but I don't want to be in your column!" Musto wrote Sweeney a thank you in the *Voice* for subjecting him "to what must be the crucial outcry of your everyday life: I may live in da Village, but I'm not one a dem!" We'd urge you to boycott Sweeney's movies, but the bombs he's "starred" in close so fast there's no time to organize a protest.

Stephen Schiff reports in *The New Yorker* that one of the stars of the Cannes Film Festival was director Stephan Elliott, whose next film is about "three drag queens stranded in the Australian desert." An agent from mega-powerful Creative Artists Agency asked the director what he needed to do to cut a deal with the director. "I want to come to L.A., and I want to see Mike Ovitz face to face." As Schiff notes, Ovitz, the head of C.A.A., "is by general agree-



Maupin — tales from *Tales*



Olympia (Madrigal) Dukakis

ment the most powerful man in Hollywood." The agent readily agreed to the meeting. Then, Elliott demanded, "I want him to be wearing a dress." The agent gulped hard, but then said, "Done."

According to the *Enquirer*, balding bigot Mel Gibson exploded at the Planet Hollywood restaurant because a waiter "kept leering at him." Gibson finally ran over to the waiter, pushed him, and yelled "Don't look at me like that!" And what, we might ask, was it about the waiter that had Mel looking back all that time? Gibson, you may recall, was last seen in these pages speeding away in a limo, his head in his bodyguard's lap.



Gibson, girl



Miss Mike Ovitz

The *Globe* brings us this item on the L.A. Sheriff's Department's "Pink Squad," who pose as "super-swishy gays" and work as decoys to nab gay-bashers. Basic training for the squad "includes lessons in lip-pursing, talking in high-pitched voices, and patrolling the streets with a hand-on-hip wiggle." A police spokesman calls this "our best weapon against bigotry."

The *New York Times* interviews Quentin Crisp about playing Queen Elizabeth I in Sally Potter's *Orlando*. (Also see film review and interview with director in this edition of the B.A.R.) Some selections from Crisp's comments about his role as the woman he calls "Miss Tudor": "Every day that I worked, I was made up clown white, put into an orange wig, and sealed into my costume. First, around my waist, two rolls of fabric were tied with tapes. Then came a hooped skirt, then a quilted petticoat, then an ordinary



Quentin Crisp — queen on queen



Holly Near — beached by marketing

petticoat, and, finally, a dress. On my upper half, I wore a bejeweled bodice so tight that it blistered my stomach." And all Jaye Davidson had to do was tuck it every morning.

The latest entry into the queer catalog market is on its way to your mailbox. It's called *Made in Gay America*, and it features wonderful offerings like "vases, mirrors, and a pink triangle clock. And for the environmentally conscious there is jewelry made entirely of recycled beach glass." And isn't that special. Several lesbian celebs model clothes for the catalog, most notably Holly Near. But unlike other models, the shot of Near includes inserts of her book covers and record jackets, following her down the beach like UFOs. How do you spell "marketing"? ▼

Disappointing Diva

by John Blanco

RuPaul
Supermodel of the World
Tommy Boy

Now that we've seen her kiss up to Arsenio, judge scantily-clad collegians for an MTV spring-break beauty contest, and pose seductively for *Entertainment Weekly*, it's obvious that drag sensation RuPaul is more intriguing as a media phenomenon than as a pop artist. Her chart-topping dance single, "Supermodel," wasn't unlistenable, but this is undeniably a performer whose videos are more interesting than her records and whose talk show appearances are most interesting of all (Her most priceless soundbite? When the seven-foot bewigged beauty told an obviously confused CNN anchor, "Baby, you can call me he, you can call me she, you can call me Regis or Kathi Lee.")

The problem with RuPaul's music is that too often she stifles her queer effervescence to fit the part of garden-variety dance diva. It's depressing to find the vivacious star offering up track after track of formulaic, personality-free disco on *Supermodel of the World*. Yeah, it's almost all upbeat and inoffensive, except for a ballad, "Supernatural," which is sexy

only if a song like Janet Jackson's "That's the Way Love Goes" gets you off.

Of course, even on the weakest cuts, RuPaul is impossible to dislike. She slips into these highly commercial tunes as easily as she would a pair of size-14 stilettos, but they don't offer her any challenges or us any fun. There are a couple of exceptions, "A Shade Shadey (Now Prance)" and "Back to My Roots," songs which have her nurturing her relationship with gay listeners rather than pandering to the dance music masses.

"A Shade Shadey" sounds like the lost theme to *Paris Is Burning*, with RuPaul playing drag ball hostess. She emphasizes the genderfuck theme by dropping her voice several octaves on the line, "Prance, I said!" But easily the best cut is the hair-hopper anthem, "Back to My Roots." The song has RuPaul and several background vocalists reciting a litany of 'dos, from Jheri curls to Afro puffs (fro wiglets for the uninitiated). When they come to corn rows, Ru interjects, "Uh uh, honey, I am tender-headed." Besides being the album's funniest track, it's also the most personal, featuring a spoken dedication to the singer's mama, Ms. Ernestine Charles, and a shameless plug for Charles' hair salon.



**Even on the
weakest cuts,
RuPaul is
impossible to
dislike.**

The one, the only, RuPaul

Tommy Boy deserves credit for releasing "Back to My Roots" as the album's second single, instead of one of the more typically Top 40-friendly songs here. If this single flies it should prove that, in

the future, RuPaul doesn't have to pad her albums with bland, Taylor Dayne-style dance music or play it so safe, a quality most unbecoming to America's fiercest drag queen.

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Performance

Lady of the Canyon

by Jim Provenzano

Among the many diva worshippers in the gay community, there are Judy queens, Liza queens, even Dusty Springfield queens. But for a sultry mix of moody depression, romantic desperation, and subtle camp, give me a Joni Mitchell queen any day. The most accomplished of these creatures, John Kelly, currently graces the stage at Josie's as he embodies the folk diva herself.

After performing around the world in a range of work, from delicate solos and fully staged performances based on everything from Mona Lisa to painter Egon Schell and Orpheus, singer, dancer, and playwright John Kelly, who has won more performance awards than perhaps even he can remember, has expanded one of his least performed characters into a full evening of song, wit, and dry camp.

With a crowded backdrop of hippie fans painted by Craig Coleman, the first half of "Paved Paradise," Kelly's intimate show, encompasses Mitchell's early Woodstock folk years. Every gesture is given an odd reverence, from lighting candles and incense, willowy skirts flying about, to a stuffed bird that whirls on a turntable as Kelly encourages audience members to sing along ("out of tune, please") to "The Circle Game."

The quality of the show hops from funky clunkers, as if this were a sort of sad comeback, to downright plaintive artistry. Kelly has often worked with his unusual countertenor range in operatic arias (as Dagmar Onassis) and in his own compositions. He captures the sometimes near-yodel quality of Mitchell's daring vocal peaks and valleys, often with highly comic results and, at other times, quite touching ones.

With the songs of Joni Mitchell, Kelly's sense of wit and earnest love for this diva shine. He's not so serious this time. It's obvious that he worships Joni Mitchell enough to develop this show, but not too much to have a few laughs at her eccentricity. When he sings lines like "I could drink a case of you and still be on my feet," it seems his game of poking fun at the reclusive pop star are pushed aside to reveal a true honesty in the lovelorn lyrics.

Later Stage

After a brief break, the old backdrop rolls down to reveal the Hollywood hills and a rippling poolside scene. Kelly re-enters in beret and bohemian drag lifted from the *Hejira* album cover. He sings from the later stage of Mitchell's career, including songs from *Ladies of the Canyon*, *Blue and Court and Spark*. He croons Joni's hit, "Help Me I Think I'm Falling," segueing into "Free Man in Paris."

As Tom Calvanese's light-



John Kelly, hissing those summer lawns at Josie's

(Photo: Michael O'Brien)

**Kelly doesn't
so much
impersonate
Mitchell as
use her range
to showcase
his own.**

ing causes reflections to shimmer in the painted pool, Kelly sings "It All Comes Down to You": "All the people at this party, they've got a lot of style ... some are clever, some are cutting" The clinking of ice cubes and LA chat are all that's missing.

Fans familiar with Mitchell's singing style will appreciate Kelly's vocal interpretations. He doesn't so much impersonate Mitchell as use her range to showcase his own. Those few who may have seen the real Mitchell live will recognize numerous bits and lines that deftly parody Joni's performance style. Kelly tosses his long blond hair back; grins with Mitchell's toothy smile; mutters about painting with odd, entropic inanity; gets confused by a guitar strap; and occasionally is carried away by the inimitable vibrato that makes Mitchell so unique.

Kelly's accompanists are a bit more on the caricature side, but amusingly so. Playing piano, painter Georgia O'Keeffe (Kenny Mellman), one of Mitchell's idols and mentors, dawdles onstage in old lady manner and occasionally whirls into a cacophonous arthritic frenzy of chords.

On bass and guitar, the shaggy Neil Young (Jonathan Bassil) sings with his familiar whine, especially on his vocal solo in "Hairless," an innocuous version of "Helpless." Kelly/Mitchell vocally accompanies with the excess that made her performance in the film *The Last Waltz* so memorable. Other songs include altered lines, mostly bits on wigs and drag. In "Big Yellow Taxi," between choruses of "... a paved paradise ... ," it's not a cab that takes Joni's love, but a big drag queen.

But the most well-known dragified song is "Wigstock," Kelly's take on "Woodstock," which he has performed as the closing number each year at Wigstock, the New York East Village drag festival that in recent years has exploded into a celeb-filled media event. It seemed almost sacrilegious to hear the tune on any day other than Labor Day, sweltering under a cheap wig, like hearing "Oh Tannenbaum" in July. But even those who didn't feel the song's specialness to NY fags enjoyed its message of hope. Instead of butterflies and bombs, Joni "dreamed of drag queens ... They were all dressed up as me, and they had found a cure for AIDS."

Kelly's tribute/parody of Joni Mitchell is loving, teasing, and not unlike Craig Coleman's backdrops, colorful and slightly cartoonish, yet definitely sincere. ▼

Paved Paradise
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Film

Blood Soup

by Jim Coughenour

The sensational opening of *Being at Home with Claude* promises everything—beauty, passion, blood. Director Jean Boudin's camera sweeps across the sweltering radiance of Montreal on a summer night, recalling the cinematographic splendor of Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, but the mood is more dangerous, the score more hectic.

Sweating crowds surge through the streets; a jazz festival is in full swing. Suddenly the camera cuts to a darkened apartment, a kitchen table laden with untouched pasta, bread, and wine. On the floor two beautiful men are fucking, beads of perspiration spooling from their perfect features. The camera whips us back and forth, city to apartment, bebop to panting, ricocheting toward a climax.

Then the idiocy begins. The camera traces the descent of an empty wine glass shaken from the table, and watches it shatter in slow motion, inches from the rocking lovers. Next comes the knife—not a butter or bread knife, but an ominously whetted cleaver—bouncing even closer to the bodies. The tension builds, the men come together, then the inevitable occurs. The eyes of the handsome top glide toward the knife; he picks it up and slashes the jugular of his hapless partner. Black blood arcs across their chests and into the marinara before it splatters against the wall.

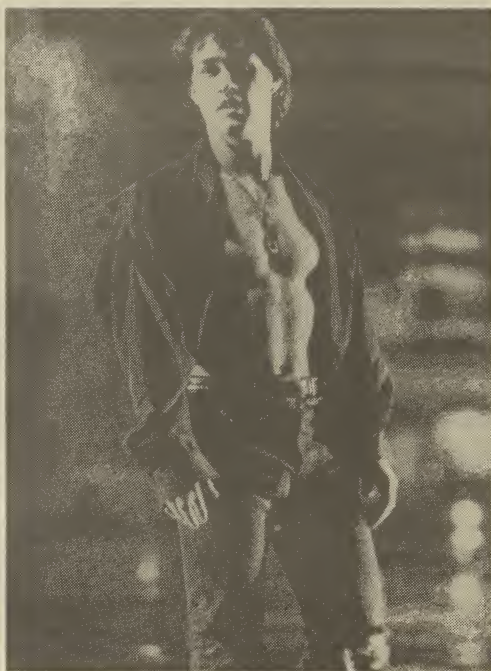
Best Laid Plans

The opening grabs you by the throat (as it were), but it also feels contrived. Even as we watch the escaping killer push his way through the crowd—until he collapses, breathless, against his film noir backdrop—we can't help wondering: what was that cleaver doing on the table? How al dente was that pasta? Or was the murderer just into body fluids? There's something gratuitous about this whole adventure.

But, hell, the killer's beautiful, so we're willing to forgive almost anything. He's Roy Dupuis, a French-Canadian TV idol. And no matter how silly the movie gets, Dupuis steals every scene—which may explain why we're left with nothing when the movie's over.

Regrettably, nothing in the rest of the film lives up to its bloody beginning. The subsequent action unfolds in the library of the Palais de Justice, where Yves (Dupuis) is being interrogated by the Inspector (Jacques Godin) called in to solve this inexplicable *crime passionnel*. From this point on *Being at Home with Claude* betrays its origin as a static stage production: once we're locked in the library we never (except for agitated flashbacks) get out again. The action is entirely verbal, shutting from the Inspector's moral outrage to Yves' impassioned monologues, then back again. It's all relentlessly "dramatic."

I won't explain why Yves murdered Claude, except to



Roy Dupuis — actor as edible art

The killer's so beautiful we're willing to forgive almost anything.

say that I found his "reason" ludicrous. No matter — *Being at Home with Claude* is a film to be savored for its bodies, not its plot.

Punk Love

Dupuis is convincing as the punk hustler who falls in love with his john. His basic appeal is kinetic—he doesn't walk around the library, he *throws* himself. He sulks against bookcases, hurls himself against tables, spins, shudders, and flounders. He has the body of the ideal hustler, its lean muscular fluidity neither "gay" nor "straight" but purely seductive.

Godin plays the Inspector as a kind of compassionate

Kojak, the gruff but tender foil for Dupuis' dance. Godin's performance suffices.

Jean-Francois Pichette appears as Claude, the unfortunate host. Pichette plays the part of the innocent intellectual seduced by the jaded hustler perfectly. Again details are everything; the tentative way the two men look at each other, studying each other's reactions, seeking each other's eyes, lets us believe that they're really falling in love. This doesn't excuse the subsequent bloodletting, but it helps.


The most interesting aspect of the film is its casting. I can't imagine any American actor pitching himself into a role as unabashedly homoerotic as Dupuis'. By comparison our Hollywood studs look prudish, cowardly, and commercial. In a Tinseltown context, where the chaste embraces of *My Private Idaho* are deemed avant-garde, the turbid passions of *Being at Home with Claude* don't seem half as silly as they are.

It's enough to make you get out the knives. ▼







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Earthbound angels: (left to right) Tim Flanagan, Steven Cosson, Brent Holland (Photo: Steve Savage)

Uneasy Laughter at Theatre Rhino

The Naked and the Doomed

by Jerry Metzker

In Punch and Judy puppet shows, Punch always emerges victorious, despite his cruelty, despite his debauchery, and despite his senseless violence. The character murders his child, then his wife, then everyone else he meets along his way; he outwits the hangman (by reversing their roles) and eventually overcomes the devil to take over hell itself.

That the character who plays the Punch role — also called Mr. Frick in James Carroll Pickett's *Queen of Angels* — succumbs to AIDS is only one of the author's exquisite ironies in this phantasmagoria of gay life, which is performed in all its raw and sometimes literally naked splendor by a terrific cast under Kelly Hill's direction.

The vignettes featuring the Punch/Frick character are interspersed among scenes that tell the story of Max, a poet and bumbler who is overwhelmed by existential angst. Given the opportunity early in the play to hang himself, Max eagerly embraces death, only to have death reject him. He is, as he laments, "sentenced to life when all I loved are dead."

Odyssey of the Mind

After being rejected by death, Max's subsequent journey becomes the focus of this adaptation of the Orpheus myth. In order to retrieve his former lover Tobias, Max is guided into the netherworld of his own memory. In the process of making this personal journey inward, Max becomes the archetypal symbol of the gay man.

Max is soon confronted by the Queen of Angels. In a virtuoso performance reminiscent of a *Beach Blanket Babylon* caricature or the fighting divas of *Death Becomes Her*, Brent Holland (as the Queen) attacks Max with a barrage of verbal abuse. The Queen, who exists only inside Max's head, possesses the power of language over Max. A dual-gendered, former hustler and perpetual tormentor,

the Queen can only mount verbal assaults. Ruling the domain of Max's thoughts, she/he preserves the memory of Max's cast-off lovers (of which the Queen is one), cleans them up and maintains a fragile comfort zone — that is, until Max commits an act of civil disobedience by attempting to retrieve Tobias from the realm of memory.

In front of the bitter Queen, Max becomes all sincere affection and kindness. All Max wants is Tobias, and Tobias still wants Max. I won't give away the conclusion any more than to say that this is the Orpheus myth with a gay twist.

Circus Motif

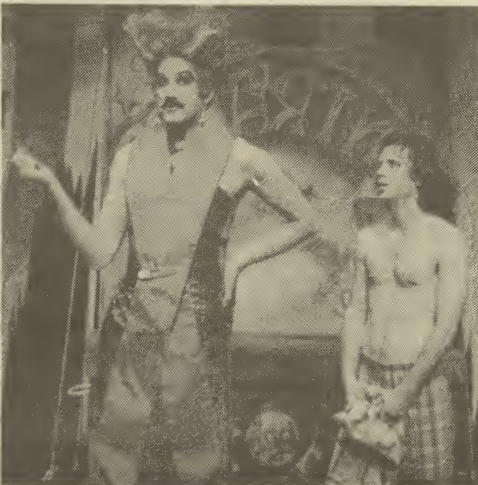
Playwright Pickett places the action of his play in a carnival sideshow, and although filled with terrific insight and exquisite ironies, the play presents the life of the gay man as something tragic and melancholy. This comes through not only in Max's search, but in the Punch and Judy interludes, as well as in other monologues interspersed within the play. The pursuit of love is consistently

overwhelmed by the immediacy of lust; the enjoyment of life is always superseded by loss.

The opening night audience loved the play, and indeed, many of its component parts are noteworthy, including Pickett and composer Jon Cohen's cabaret-style songs. This production boasts a solid and energetic cast that features Timothy Flanagan as Max, Mario Mondelli as the Showman, David Bicha as Frick, Mart McChesney as Frak, and Ron Johnson, Jr. as El Coyote — whose second act monologue is a terrific piece of performance all on its own. Kelly Hill's direction extracts every sensitivity and burst of energy from the play and cast, uniting them adroitly under the sideshow tent.

As a play of entertaining parts, Pickett has succeeded, but as a unified creation, this work presents a rather bleak treatise on gay life. Beneath the hilarity of the onstage events lies a subtext of unhappiness that lingers long after the laughter has stopped. ▼

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Steve Cosson (right) meets The Queen (Brent Holland)

(Photo: Steve Savage)

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Jerry Walker gives "an excellent, hysterical performance" -*KGO Radio*. He's "hilarious. Whenever he's on stage, the level of farce and the force of belly laughs increase by palpable degrees." -*B.A.R.* He's "funny... speaking volumes with a damning lift of his brow, a dismissive curl of the lip and a defiant hand on his hip." -*SF Chronicle*.

Lisa Joffroy is "the most charming of all, a wry comic find." -*SF Chronicle* in a performance that is "beautifully pitched" -*B.A.R.*

Jim Webber is "achingly funny" -*B.A.R.* "laughable is an arrogant Rush Limbaugh bray" -*SF Chronicle*. "an over-the-top Martin Mull." -*Sentinel*

Pamela Murphy is "a dizzying delight" -*Sentinel*. She's laughable but lovable... a delightful cross between Doris Day and Sally Jesse Raphael." -*B.A.R.*

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Same Person, Different Sex

by Noreen C. Barnes

Orlando is Sally Potter's lush, truly spectacular adaptation of Virginia Woolf's novel of a person whose life — as both male and female — spans four centuries. Androgyny, the magic of traveling through time without aging, a journey from solitude to self-fulfillment, and the shape-shifting of gender are all exquisitely realized in a story, that, when read, seems nearly impossible to film.

Potter's work remains true to the spirit of Woolf, although Potter does depart from the original plot. War brings about the sex change in Potter's version, and the director chooses to bypass Orlando's dilemma as an 18th-century woman who must secure her property through a male heir.

Potter contemporizes the end of the story just as Woolf did, but whereas Woolf's version, a gift to her love Vita Sackville-West, ended in 1928, Potter extrapolates to the present, bringing it up to 1991.

The glorious Tilda Swinton is Orlando, and her calm, clear, and frequently ironic eyes fill the screen. Despite the feminine appearance cultivated by Elizabethan men,

there is "no doubt about his sex" the opening voice-over tells us. Orlando's unflinching gaze back to the camera begins at the beginning, with a self-reference that continues throughout the film, disrupting whatever world he/she inhabits throughout his/her journey through four centuries. Swinton's sly, self-possessed asides comment on a lost love ("It never would have worked"), critique a performance of *Othello* ("terrific play"), or suppress a startled response to a transformed body by a simple, "Same person, just a different sex."

Ultimate Queen

Quentin Crisp appears as Elizabeth I — the ultimate queen as *the Queen* — who names Orlando as her mascot and favorite, gifts him with property, and commands "do not fade, do not wither, do not grow old." The old gay man as woman and the young woman as man illuminate both gender as a sort of costume to be taken on and off and the ability we all possess to discover our other gendered self — and to play with it.

Woolf's original epic, Potter's sprawling vision, and Alexei Rodionov's gorgeous

Director Sally Potter's work remains true to the spirit of Virginia Woolf.

cinematography blend in a different palette of colors — in both temperament and texture — for each titled time period, an inversion of the life cycle, traveling from "Death" to "Birth" in Orlando's hopscotch through history. The ambers of 1600 give way to



Tilda Swinton, skirting the centuries in *Orlando*

mid-17th century blues, to the desert whites of the 1700's "Politics," to the pastels shades of mid-18th century "Society" and the brittle wit of the Lady Orlando's debate with Swift, Addison, and Pope.

In 1610, "Love" marks the revelries on the frozen Thames, as Orlando loses both his fiancée and the Cosack (Charlotte Valandrey) he courts. The cross-gender casting cannot obscure what might be termed the "lesbian wish fulfillment" of the steamy affair amidst the ice.

Orlando, lover of poetry and solitude perhaps more than any other person, gives in to the paranoid conspiracy theories and hypochondria of Nick Greene (Heathcote Williams) and becomes the poet's patron, despite Greene's taunting criticism of Orlando's own efforts to write.

Sappy Romance

Orlando simply defies time and its gravity, slips into another gender with ease, as others ponder how and whether to acknowledge the change. Only Harry (John Wood), attracted to Orlando, declares that Orlando is "the perfection of your sex, whether male or female," is willing to tolerate Orlando's "ambiguous sexuality" and offers marriage. She refuses and flees into a topiary maze,

collapsing into the next century and a sappy romantic interlude with an American adventurer (Billy Zane), who pursues freedom "unfettered by position or possession."

She loses him but has his child after a century-long pregnancy spanning two world wars and the assault of high technology. A single mother of the '90s, whose life is captured by her daughter on camcorder, Orlando is no longer trapped by a gendered destiny.

How appropriate, too, that Jimmy Somerville appears as an Elizabethan singer and modern angel, providing celebratory parentheses for Orlando's journey.

Now, when gender issues are on the cutting edge of cultural discourse and nearly every academic discipline, the concept of transforming gender effortlessly, without it being remarkable, is quite astonishing to behold. It's nice to see a smart and witty treatment of renewed gender trendiness. Although all of Orlando's love affairs are heterosexual ones (no matter what gender Orlando happens to be), what is critical is the notion that love knows no gender — and it is not the givens of nature as much as the trappings of nurture that are obstacles to fulfillment. ▼

Editor's Note: Orlando opens at the Lumiere (885-3200) on June 25.



John Wood (left) and the male Orlando (Tilda Swinton)

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Subversive Pleasure

Sally Potter Wants Audiences to Feel Her Imagery 'Literally in Their Bones'

by Daniel Mangin

On a Sunday afternoon in May, Orlando director Sally Potter and I are discussing "life sucks and then you die" films — some of which we agree are quite proficient aesthetically. I tell her I've become glum lately, wondering if the cinema really can change people's ways of seeing and being or whether the present-day output will just turn out to be a record of the disintegration of our civilization.

Her response to a torrent of melancholic queries and speculations is immensely cheering, almost as much as her movie itself.

★ ★ ★

Daniel Mangin: ... I don't believe in ignoring the negative aspects to life, but cumulatively these images do have power and I wonder what the consequences are of having these kinds of images before us. Why are audiences attracted to them? Do they galvanize us to action or paralyze us? What is your responsibility as an artist?

Sally Potter: I feel a kind of obligation, that it's part of my task to present an optimistic view of the future because there is so much hope-

lessness, negativity, and despair — and part of the vision that is presented by most governments to most peoples of the world is that change is not possible.

My goal is to try to reverse that, to use art to give a sense of empowerment, however obliquely. You can do it in a documentary very polemically, but I think the job of fiction is to do it very subtly, so that people come out feeling the joy of living literally in their bones. I want to flood the audience with pleasure visually so that the endorphins kick in and they start to twinkle all over.

If the content that's going along with that pleasure implies subtle messages of the possibility of change, or lends dignity to those that have not been dignified, or gives a voice to those who have been silent — all these gently subversive things — hopefully a person can go out of the cinema and take the steps they need in their lives. You can't exaggerate what cinema can do, but neither do I think you should underestimate what it can do, all of those subtle to-the-bone levels.

I presume this isn't to say you want to ignore the fact ...

That the world is a negative place? I'm deeply interested in it because I've expe-

"I want to flood the audience with pleasure visually so that the endorphins kick in and they start to twinkle all over."
— Sally Potter

rienced it. (Laughs.) But I'm not interested in presenting it without some context of understanding or in just reproducing negativity.

If something awful hap-



Director Sally Potter (left) and Orlando's Queen Elizabeth I, Tilda Swinton

pens, I want to know why, I want to understand it, I want to know how it can be redeemed. Where it came from, if there's some sort of logic to it.

I don't like to think that it all comes down to hands-of-god fatalism, though. To force an audience into a sort of hopeless passivity seems completely useless, even if like everyone else I sometimes get into a bath and weep with the awfulness of it all. But then I like to get out of the bath and have a cold shower and see what can be done.

Your film makes the case that breaking down gender barriers will be beneficial to all.

The whole film is made from the premise that the human race is divided into two genders for the purpose of reproduction and very little else, and that most all of masculinity and femininity is learned or acquired, practiced — highly arbitrary.

What were your instructions to Tilda Swinton about playing Orlando as a man versus a woman?

The film was about Orlando the person, not a man or a woman. As an individual with certain qualities of innocence, failure — an anti-hero or anti-heroine, a misfit, an outsider. Orlando is about all of us, about being born into families or social groups and then finding that we're expected to behave or act a certain way. The emphasis was always on the difference between the essential self and the self you're expected to be.

Did you have any particular awareness of transgender imagery throughout cinema history?

During the development of Orlando, there was a series at the National Film Theatre in London of films with women playing men. Tilda and I went to as many of those as we could. Garbo, Dietrich, Louise Brooks — we learned a lot from watching them. Some very specific technical things about what to concentrate on and what not to. What happens if you go excessively butch or have the actor show facial hair or other obvious characteristics.

You clearly decided against the latter with Orlando.

In those films with a woman playing a man, I found myself looking to see if the mustache was on correctly, whether the glue was showing or not. That confirmed

my suspicion that it was better to work with the audience's willing suspension of disbelief and not worry about the outer codes.

Representing the essential self on the screen has more to do with the codes of acting than gender. The camera, by enlarging the human face, puts a whole set of facial muscles on display that we don't normally get access to, so the audience can "read" the tiniest twitch of a muscle of the jawbone as danger or tension, agreement or disagreement.

We're talking about a very subtle vocabulary. I think that those actors who are very skillful develop a kind of transparency on the screen that allows us direct access to their essential self. Of course it's a deeply constructed one — using light, make-up, clothes, all manner of things to create this apparently transparent essential self.

Your last statement is a reminder that all the information in a film doesn't just come through the "story."

Or just through the actor, because a lot of people who don't know about film experience it purely as embodied in the actor.

You open Orlando with the camera swaying, to say right at the top, "This is a story about fluidity."

Fluidity is a good word to apply to the gender issue, too. That seamlessness.

This theme is central to The Crying Game, another film that has captured imaginations here and in Europe.

Ideas about gender are not fixed in stone. They've changed throughout history. In the Elizabethan period the manly characteristics were to be very droopy, rather pale, and interested in poetry, with a disposition toward melancholy. These would now be thought of as fey or feminine characteristics.

You said at the San Francisco International Film Festival screening of Orlando that as a woman filmmaker you felt yourself to be an ally of filmmakers of color. How so?

The present power structure distorts all of us. Women and people of color continually have to struggle to get their hands on the means of production to get the practice, to become expert at creating films as powerful, as entertaining as what's out there

(Continued on next page)

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Jon Robin Baitz's 'The Substance of Fire'

Family Affair

by Chad Jones

In *The Substance of Fire*, gay playwright Jon Robin Baitz has crafted a play of compelling intellect, heated drama, and deft characterization. The play is currently enjoying its Northern California premiere in director John C. Fletcher's intimately and intensely realized production at the Magic Theatre. That the play's second act lacks the burning intensity of the first matters very little in view of Baitz's tight, zingy dialogue and some excellent performances from the cast of five.

As a dramatist, Baitz is at his finest when creating taut scenes for the ensemble. The lesser second act mainly focuses on only two characters, but the shimmering first act centers on the family dynamics surrounding patriarch Isaac Geldhart, an anachronistic New York publisher of tomes such as *Hobson-Jobson*. A *Glossary of Colloquial An-*

glo-Indian Words, and his children. With his business sinking into bankruptcy under the weight of its academic, best-seller-less catalog, Isaac's two sons and his daughter attempt to wrangle the business away from him. To say Isaac Geldhart is a curmudgeon and dysfunctional parent is a hearty understatement. He verbally eviscerates each one of his children with beautifully constructed insults and belittles them with clever literary aspersions tinged with poisonous poetry.

Pitting ambitious youth against stubborn age, Baitz turns this family battle into a war of words with modern society as its battleground. Isaac argues that his published works might be out of place in today's world, but today's world is devoid of much-needed silences, filled instead with white noise and fireworks. The children argue that Isaac has devoted himself to words and books, shutting them out



Scott Freeman (left) and Ken Ruta in *The Substance of Fire*
(Photo: David Allen)

along with the rest of the noisy world. It's a bitter war, but the beauty of it is that Baitz has created a war in which both sides are right.

Bombastic Character

As Isaac, Ken Ruta paints a bombastic character in broad strokes. His booming voice and towering presence

create the image of a monster, but often he holds back just enough to keep Isaac from becoming too horrible. Ruta's Isaac is clearly a man uncomfortable with life in contemporary society. To watch Isaac rip his children to shreds in the first act is to watch an actor savoring a beautifully written role.

Most notable of the three children is Andrew Dolan as introspective middle kid Martin. Bespectacled, sloppy and more in touch with life than any of his family members, Dolan's Martin is an ideal foil for the bellowing Isaac. Dolan captures Martin's tortured humanity that turns easily from rage to gentle understanding.

After the blazing ferocity of the first act, the anemic second act turns *The Substance of Fire* into a one-act dazzler with an unfortunately long coda. Act II takes place three-and-a-half years after the battle for the publishing house. Isaac is teetering on the edge of senility and must prove his competence to Marge the social worker (nicely portrayed by Frances Lee McCain). It's a mistake for Baitz to leave the children almost entirely out of the act. Martin appears briefly, but the emphasis has shifted to Isaac and Marge, leaving the audience to grasp for through lines. Baitz still supplies some snappy dialogue, but his *Fire* flickers and is nearly extinguished. ▼

The Substance of Fire
Magic Theatre, through July 11
441-8822

Subversive

(Continued from previous page)

now, films that people really want to see but which present different values, different ways of moving through the world.

Your earlier work was more experimental. What have you learned over the years about getting your ideas across in fiction?

I've learned a lot from sitting with audiences as they watch my films. About timing, what you need to do to keep an audience in the palm of your hand while saying what you want to say, listening for reactions to a particular shot or sequence. How long to hold a shot and how not to linger too much, so that you as an audience member feel you might have missed a treat instead of having absorbed everything and now you're bored.

This is simply a matter of skill. The skill of entertainment. I'm excited by the idea of breaking through to a mainstream audience with intensely radical ideas. ▼

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Holly Near: The Art and Politics of Inclusion

by Noreen C. Barnes

I met with performer-songwriter and activist Holly Near at the Stage Door Theatre, where her show, *Fire in the Rain ... Singer in the Storm*, was preparing to open. Throughout our breakfast conversation, I was struck by her ease, openness, vibrancy, and honesty, and charmed by her clear, steady blue eyes, the color of the water off Napili, set off by a muted olive jacket and that glorious red hair.

We spoke about language and gay/lesbian identity, the community, her theatre piece, her years of "cultural work," and plans for the future. We talked about the labels of lesbian and gay, of political affiliations and personal affections, of gender stereotyping.

"One can't categorize when we speak of 'woman,'" she said, pointing out that while there are women like Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Margaret Thatcher, there also are some men who "carry the best of female sensibilities."

"I have no interest in making assumptions anymore," she remarked, citing labels as "linguistic shortcuts to a point" that have been substituted for taking the time to try to understand and connect with each other. Facile terminology has replaced communication in an age of deteriorating language, according to Near, who is fascinated with our need to assign a designation to every person and relationship. She stated, "I have friends in their sixties, two women who are the best of friends. They are not lesbian,

but they are companions. They do everything together and they have a relationship. What do we call them?"

Also, "celibate women identify themselves as lesbian," she observed. "People have language problems."

This is inexorably linked to a paucity of positive images of lesbians in the culture: "Lesbians don't get to walk out the door and look up at a billboard with them on it. Lesbians can't turn on the TV and see a sitcom validate their lives, or hear lesbian love songs on the radio. Before two years ago, you couldn't count on one hand the 'out' lesbians — Martina, k.d., Melissa Etheridge — and now you can add Roberta Achtenberg" to the list of nationally known, high-visibility lesbians.

Clinging Mentality

"We have this mentality of clinging because there is so little for us — and when you shift it's a huge threat." That shift, a political lesbian identification occasionally being at odds with personal romantic choices, is one that she noted that "if we were in a society of abundance, no one would even notice."



Holly Near (Photo: Jay Thompson)

"I can't be responsible for everyone's fantasy of me. I do act out of a place of responsibility."
— Holly Near

"I can't be responsible for everyone's fantasy of me. I do act out of a place of responsibility." For Near, it's "more important where we stand in the world; it's more important than who I sleep with." She laughed, "I wish I had all the free time to actually have all the sexual activity people think I do."

(Continued on next page)

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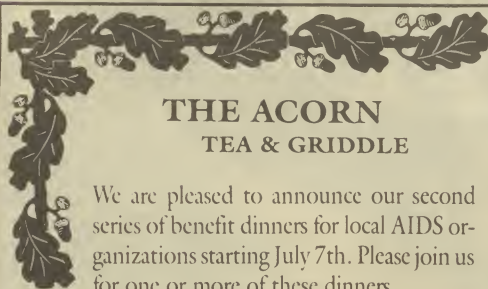
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Holly Near in *Fire in the Rain ... Singer in the Storm*

(Photo: Jay Thompson)

Holly

(Continued from page 92)

Near continued, "Heterosexuality gets promoted all the time. Let's just stop talking about it. What we should be concerned about instead," she explained, is "gay bashing, children being taken away from lesbian mothers. There's a bigger enemy out there." Which is, in part, what her show deals with — that the trivial details are not as important as the big picture.

We spoke about the political in-fighting of the gay and lesbian community in the Bay Area, something that Near in her travels observed "that people in other parts of the country cannot afford." While enjoying the "outrageousness of the Bay Area," she noted that in other places, "people are just hanging on." Her performance, her journey, addresses these very questions. It ranges from her being a "kid off the farm being rocked by the world," going to Hollywood, a first record contract, and being told by a producer she'd never make it in the business because "there was no element of submission in my voice."

It's a personal story that also honors the last 30 years of peace activism and the human rights movement. And Near is emphatic about "how the Reagan era did its very best to destroy every aspect of it. Then we started to blame ourselves and each other for what happened. Will history ever add up all the catastrophes that can be laid at his feet?"

Although "Fire in the Rain ..." covers a lot of time and territory, Near maintained that she's "not pretending to



Holly Near

(Photo: Jay Thompson)

do a history of the world. I'll leave that to Anna Deavere Smith."

This play also celebrates the rich culture that sprang from the lesbian community — the literature, poetry, and music — nearly two decades of prolific work. Near stressed that the community is experiencing its own devastation — breast cancer — and hoped that the lesbian culture can hold on to feminist perspectives as well as to a life-affirming sense of humor.

Critical Component

Laughter does not have to be at the expense of each other, she said, citing Lily Tomlin and Kate Clinton as two funny women who illuminate the world through laughter in the best possible way. Near regards a comic sensibility as a critical component in per-

formance: "I look at the mistakes I've made, and I'm able to laugh at myself," and so her audience is able to laugh with her.

"My piece does not demand agreement" — only that we consider what she says. "It's a play with music, but not one of my concerts," she cautioned.

In San Francisco, the challenge is to reach the range of people here, "from the Berkeley radical to the tourist who comes to ride the cable car." Near is confident that most will like her work, except perhaps those "uncomfortable with the language." For example, she said, "If you can't handle the word," she paused — and I wasn't sure what she was going to say — "genocide," then perhaps you may not."

After two years, she has come to regard the character

she plays as "Her." Near has found the ability to distance herself and thus get closer to "Her," discovering "her" and her own vulnerabilities. Near's performance is directed by her sister, Timothy, the artistic director of the San Jose Repertory Theatre. Holly said that Timothy saved her "from slipping into a rhetorical space" in the show by reminding her to simply "tell the story. She kept Holly on track, steering her away from the solo performer's trap of instructing the audience how to experience it.

Near has discovered that many of her fans come to the show once, then bring other people back with them. She was astonished to see a family of five generations of women attend one night during her run at the Taper in Los Angeles. After another performance, a conservative season subscriber told her that her work had helped him understand his estranged son's choice to be involved with Greenpeace. She was moved by his decision to re-establish contact with his son as a result of seeing her and is delighted that her work can have such an impact upon people. "If this is what can happen, I'm doing the right thing," she said. Near recognizes the measure of "a good piece of theatre as one that, when you go out to coffee afterward, you're still talking about it."

Next Foray

Beyond her plans to tour the show a little longer — it will be in New York in the fall — Near is open about her future. "I don't really know what I'm going to do, and that's kind of wonderful!" She does need vocal rest, and tries

to spend a lot of time in isolation and "being non-verbal." She thinks that fiction writing — perhaps tackling a novel — will probably be her next foray.

After over an hour had flown by, full of many other stories and anecdotes, I finally asked Near what she thought about the slogan, "The Year of the Queer," for this week's Pride Parade. Holly laughed and replied, "I'm glad I wasn't on that committee." She observed that our conversation had come full circle, that we were back to language.

"What we really need," she said, "is a word that says, 'I believe in humanity reaching its full potential.' We need a word that includes people who abhor racism, homophobia, sexism, people who believe in children's rights, who believe that everyone should have a home, that starvation is unacceptable, that education is critical — what is that word?"

She admires the lesbian and gay community: "How bold we are! Sex threatens people, and most other movements have been unwilling to take it on." She is particularly impressed by the work and energy of Torie Osborn, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"The Year of the Queer?" she concluded. "Sure, why not? Anytime there is an out-there thing, some people will be uncomfortable. It may not be my style, but the playing field has changed. People have put up with euphemisms for a long time, and there's no one way to do things." ▼

Editor's Note: "Fire in the Rain ... Singer in the Storm" opens June 26 at the Stage Door Theatre. Call 749-2228 for tickets and information.

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Boob-Tube Buffoonery

by Chad Jones

Take a group of agile young performers whose brains have been addled by television-saturated childhoods, add some catchy tunes with clever lyrics, throw a campy gay wash over the whole production, and you get *Not Without My Nipples: The Made-for-TV Musical* now playing at the Victoria Theatre.

Sisters Faith and Jill Soloway, who brought us *The Real Live Brady Bunch*, have struck again. Their source material is still bad television, but this time their show is fresher, more original, and deliciously out of whack.

Conceived and directed by Faith Soloway and Benjamin Zook (another *Brady* alum), and written by the entire cast of eight, *Nipples* is the story of one television producer's "dream cast" brought together to film the still unfolding saga of a young girl holding her family hostage until she receives breast-reduction

surgery. It's infotainment plucked from the headlines ala David Koresh and NBC's immediate TV movie.

While the suburban drama presses toward conclusion, the dream cast of television hacks — Meredith Baxter, Judith Light, Joyce DeWitt, Gavin MacLeod, Elizabeth Ashley, Susan Ruttan, and Johnny Cash — has gathered at the lesbian producer's Napa Valley home to await filming. The ripe-for-satire world of exploitative docudramas and the tenuous status of television celebrities are delightfully skewered in bit after funny bit, song after clever song (the music by Faith Soloway is dead-on pop soundtrack perfect and the lyrics by Zook and the cast are almost always funny).

Hilarious Hutsell

Saturday Night Live cast member Melanie Hutsell, whose big break came when producers saw her playing Jan Brady in *The Real Live*



Melanie Hutsell (left) and Jill Soloway in *Not Without My Nipples!*
(Photo: Jerry Apodaca)

Brady Bunch, proves in *Nipples* that she is more than a one-note sketch actress. Best known for her *SNL* creations, Tori Spelling, Jan Brady, and the sorority girl, Hutsell has never been allowed much room for expansion. Playing Meredith Baxter (formerly Birney), Hutsell is non-stop hysterical. She doesn't have a lot of depth as an actress, but she is a robust ham and is able to sustain her goofy energy for the full two-plus hours of the show. Hers is not a sophisticated brand of humor, but it works and she is the brightest spot of an extremely vibrant cast.

Zook, the show's co-creator, is a howl in drag as Elizabeth Ashley, and Patrick Towne (yet another *Brady* alum) is a precisely buffoonish Gavin MacLeod with the former Murray Slaughter-Captain Stubing's vocal inflections copied to perfection.

Things go wonderfully out of control when Johnny Cash and Gavin MacLeod become lovers and Elizabeth Ashley springs hits of ecstasy on the entire cast. The result is a major orgy and a musical masterpiece titled something like, "I Love It When You Lick Me Down There."

Just when you think the show is going to run out of steam, out come more surprises. Things begin to bog down in Act II when the "dream cast" goes through the motions of the television movie, which provides only intermittent laughs. Then, when things look bleak, out pops "The People's Pick Awards," a tacky, self-congratulatory television awards show. Tacky guest presenters from Tyne Daly to Barbara Eden to Billy Ray Cyrus present "Pickie" awards to television's most "deserving" personalities.

Things go wonderfully out of control when Johnny Cash and Gavin MacLeod become lovers.

Of course, the entire cast of the "Not Without My Nipples" movie win awards. Though the pace begins to lag here and there, and not all the impersonations are quite right, the awards show allows the trifle of a plot to conclude the play with a bang.

Not Without My Nipples is simply the best bet in town for boob-tube babies. ▼

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Books

Unrelenting Silliness

Mad Monks on the Road
by Jim Crotty and Michael Lane; Simon & Schuster, \$11

by Roberto Friedman

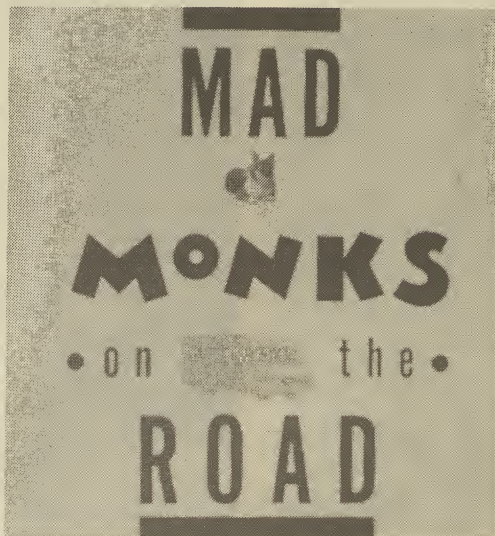
You just never know who's going to hit the big time. Take Jim Crotty and Michael Lane, better known as the Monks, who developed a cult following in the late '80s with their high-tech 'zine, *Monk*, which they produced entirely on a Macintosh from their recreational vehicle as they traveled the highways and byways of America. Jim and Michael Monk became famous in their own way. Now their story, *Mad Monks on the Road*, has just been put out in a colorful trade paperback by Simon & Schuster, a publisher which most assuredly does not operate out of the back of a camper.

Their book, subtitled *A 47,000-Hour Dashboard Adventure Across America — From Paradise, California to Royal, Arkansas and Up the New Jersey Turnpike*, is, like their 'zine, lively, personal, and freewheeling. The Monks' credo of 'keeping things "simple, mobile, and true"' apparently extends to their prose style, composed as it is of simple declarative sentences which would not be out of place in the *Weekly Reader*. This would be okay were their adventures not often conveyed in the most unbearable cutesy-poo lingo. A trip home, in which Michael refers to his mother as "Mommaka-poo," made me throw the book across the room in disgust.

You have to have a pretty high tolerance for New Ageisms, too, to fully appreciate the Monk aesthetic. Fortunately, the itinerant Monks don't take their enlightened lifestyle too seriously; we are treated to an amusing picture of Michael mainlining soy milk, and their sense of humor extends to sending up legions of New Age hucksters who descend upon Sedona, Arizona, for the Harmonic Convergence ("And my guide from the third plane told me to wear blue on Tuesdays if I want to open my crown chakra in time for transmission").

Genuinely Eccentric

You gotta love these Monks. Their quirky take on



America seems genuinely eccentric. In a maneuver that won me over, they attempt to travel the entirety of Texas ("The Howdy State") without meeting a single Texan. In an RV park in Del Rio, Texas, however, they do meet two German boys who are appealingly pictured on p. 176.

Their adventures are often conveyed in the most unbearable cutesy-poo lingo.

Surprisingly, the Monks write very little about their most interesting venture, their investment in "dashboard publishing" to create the world's first mobile publishing house. Although there are entertaining passages in which Jim Monk works a bank of pay phones to sell ads, we never learn

much about the contents or history of *Monk* magazine, how it evolved from a newsletter to cult phenom. I wonder, too, if mass marketing has compelled the Monks to tone down certain subjects: although I remember an issue of *Monk* in which Michael disclosed his HIV status, there's nary a mention of it in the book.

I found the unrelenting silliness of their adventures wearing, so that when Mike Monk does something of real seriousness, like scattering the ashes of his Uncle Jack, who dies of AIDS, the effect is jarring. Still, this may be just your cup of herbal tea. Things do come alive at the end of the book when the Monks hit New York City, stay with post-porn goddess Annie Sprinkle and meet her transsexual female-to-male S/M boyfriend, Les. Annie gets the Monks to loosen up a bit, experiment with sensual massage, even visit the Show Palace. I found myself regretting that Jim and Mike hadn't skipped the visits to Mommaka-poo and made a beeline to the East Village. But monks will be monks, and this is their story. ▼

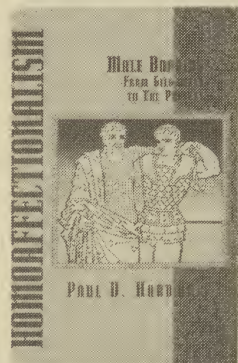
No Breadth, No Depth

Homoaffectualism: Male Bonding From Gilgamesh to the Present
by Paul D. Hardman; GLB, \$26.95

Broad surveys are occasionally useful because they provide the overview that anchors the discussion of smaller parts of the big picture. The survey provided by Paul Hardman in *Homoaffectualism*, however, is of the un-useful variety. Leaping over centuries with nary a thought (the Renaissance and the Middle Ages receive a scant eight pages), Hardman confuses breadth with depth (and his breadth isn't any too broad).

In a tone marked more by whining than any pretense at rationality, Hardman uses selective evidence to argue, presumably for the straight audience, that they should like gay men. Homophobia is based on a few misunderstood texts from various sources and a general misinterpretation of what the big thinkers (i.e., white men) really meant when they talked about crimes against nature. Hardman seems to think that straight fears can be assuaged by reinterpretation of ancient texts, as if any cultural phenomenon might be the product of a single misreading of a text.

Homoaffectualism is badly written, its arguments mere assertions bolstered by a selective dip into anecdotes and ancient texts. Hardman offers lots of footnotes in place of a well-developed argument. The result is a book that serves no discernible purpose, save perhaps as a sop to the author's vanity. ▼



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SAN FRANCISCO— Good ideas rarely come after drinking a couple of screwdrivers. But when Maurice Kanbar felt a splitting headache about three years ago at a cocktail party, he went out and launched a new kind of vodka.

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Kanbar, an inventor with more than 30 patents, searched through medical journals and alcohol research studies and finally traced his headaches to congeners - the impurities found in all alcoholic beverages, even vodka. He also discovered that many vodkas' purity levels vary between batches.

He then used his engineering background to devise a way to remove the congeners without altering the taste or alcohol content. He found that by distilling the vodka four times, and at different temperatures, he could eliminate most of the congeners (less than .02 grams of total congeners per liter remain in SKYY).



Kanbar also implemented a proprietary filtration system that removes particulate matter and odor-forming compounds. So SKYY is an extremely smooth-tasting vodka. In fact, *Pacut's Spirit Journal* picked SKYY Vodka as the "Best Domestic Vodka" for 1992.

"Crystal clear; very pleasant, delicate and enticing nose of sugar cane; without question, the most satiny vodka I've yet sampled," wrote Paul Pacult.

Kanbar says, "If you can drink high-congener content beverages like red wine, cognac or bourbon without suffering the side effects, then keep enjoying them." He adds, "However, if you ever get headaches from alcohol and want to try an exceptionally clean and smooth-tasting American vodka — TRY SKYY."

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Dan Bessie's 'Turnabout'

Better Family Values

by Mark Freeman

Don't you have relatives whose lives should be made into movies? Dan Bessie did: a gay uncle who'd been a satirical puppeteer ever since the 1920s. Filmmaker Bessie (*Executive Action* in 1973, about JFK's assassination), plus his "significant other" and co-producer Helen Garvy, wondered how much to mention Uncle Harry's homosexuality. They decided to be risky and put it right up front. The film, *Turnabout*, is aimed first at schools and libraries, but all the publicity begins with this slogan: "They're Entertainers. They're 92 Years Old. They're Gay."

Bessie narrates the hour-long film and tells some fam-

ily stories. Old photos of gorgeous flapper-era college boys show those over-the-forehead hairstyles that had a recent comeback. One is Harry Burnett.

With Forman Brown and Roddy Brandon, Burnett formed the Yale Puppeteers, and the three spent their summers car touring from gig to gig. Visits from them were a treat, "though they rarely stayed more than half an hour," Bessie recalls. He knew they were "gay" but admits that "at age 12 or 13 I had only the foggiest notion of what that meant." Harry was a favorite uncle, and Bessie saw the trio as "a family who traveled, worked, and lived together."

More Forthcoming

The film interviews writer

Forman Brown and puppet-meister Harry Burnett, both at age 92. Forman is the more forthcoming of the two. "We became," he confides, "in an adolescent sort of way, lovers, I suppose ... You felt you were hiding something all the time, but it became second nature."

In the film Harry is still quite reticent to discuss his sex life. He expressed himself via his creations: "Puppets were a lot easier to manipulate than a person — you could be a lot more cruel with a puppet. People have feelings that can be hurt." After their brief youthful fling, Forman found Roddy Brandon — "my great love for over fifty years."

For 25 of those years, all three lived together, and worked their unique musical puppet extravaganza in a variety of locales. When Olvera Street in Los Angeles opened to tourists in the 1930s, their puppet theatre was one of its first attractions. And it drew the stars. Many came to see puppets made in their likeness; others came hoping they would be so immortalized. All signed the wallboards. The film includes brief shots of Hitchcock, Chaplin, Einstein (who critiques his mannequin: "Good, but not fat enough!"), Hedda and Louella (skewered in one of Forman's songs), Eleanor Roosevelt, Greta Garbo (who came in disguise but was discovered), as well as Amelia Earhart, who "brought along her 99's, the all-women flying club, one night."

Liberalism also showed up, his agent offering his services (as a piano player). But the little troupe already had their piano player and resident songwriter. Forman Brown, over the decades, continued turning out clever lyrics to lilting melodies in the tongue-in-cheek mode of Noel Coward and Cole Porter. Even when he had to sink to the level of a Hollywood film production number to accompany a commissioned puppetry skating scene of Harry's, he was able to sneak in the refrain: "Skating is a joy, with a handsome boy, no other sport is quite so gay."

But when Harry replays one of his old bits about a has-been vaudevillian reduced to playing an equine derriere, Forman's lyrics really show their stuff. "I'm getting lean and skinny, from the suppressed desire to whinny, but of course, I'm never the refined end, I've always been the hind end, of the horse."

Eventually they opened Turnabout Theatre, one of the first "legit" stages in provincial Los Angeles — or actually two of them. At one end of the room was the puppet stage, but then the seats flipped over (they were bought from the defunct Red Line streetcars and repuppoled with cute names like Hot 'N' Bothered, Betwixt & Between, Pyramus & Thisbe) to face the live stage.

Here the audience might well be enchanted with performer Elsa Lanchester (*Bride of Frankenstein* star and wife of gay actor Charles Laughton), who came for a two-week tryout but stayed 12



Albert Einstein poses with his own puppet likeness, made by early gay performance pioneers, the Yale Puppeteers

"There's nothing like coming out of the closet at age 86."
—Forman Brown

years. In *Turnabout* viewers get to see her act and sing two of Forman's numbers, including the very bittersweet ballad "Catalog Woman."

Family History

Throughout this century, the clandestine movement for gay rights (or just the right to be gay) existed hand-in-hand with other struggles for civil rights, which found support among progressive leftists. So the fact that this film was made by someone with Dan Bessie's family history comes as no surprise.

His mother was of Scots-English stock, solidly middle-class Methodists. But she married a secular Jewish Dutch boy whose father arrived as a stowaway, got drafted, and served the North during the Civil War as sergeant of an all-black battalion. Dan's dad was Alvah Bessie, who came to Hollywood to write for Warner Brothers in the forties and eventually became famous as one of the Hollywood Ten, lefty screenwriters who refused to rat on others in the face of McCarthyism. After ten months in prison, he never worked in Hollywood again.

Alvah, by the 1950s, had moved up to San Francisco to work for labor leader Harry Bridges as an assistant editor on a union newspaper, then as backstage announcer at the Hungry i. He also spent a year publicizing the SF International Film Festival.

But what goes around comes around. Dan Bessie grew up having "sporadic family. I always had a fantasy of that Norman Rockwell family sitting around the

table." Now he's engaged in the process of "remeeting my relatives" and writing a book about them: *Rare Birds*.

Harry Immortalized

Meanwhile, the gay uncle who inspired him can still be seen creating puppets, singing, doing clown make-up for the last time, immortalized in *Turnabout: The Story of the Yale Puppeteers*. He died this May at age 92, having seen and loved the film.

The last remaining member of the puppet crew is songwriter Forman Brown. He has also written books, including a groundbreaking positive gay novel, *Better Angel*, published in 1933 under the pseudonym Richard Meeker. When it got republished in 1987 by Alyson, Forman Brown stepped forward and claimed it. As he announces in the film, "There's nothing like coming out of the closet at age 86." He's still writing: his latest song is for kids, about AIDS.

The film works both for gay audiences — who see in it a history of our elders and of an era in theatre long passed — and for non-gay viewers, for whom it is a family film that is remarkably inclusive. At a De Anza College preview screening, one born-again Christian woman said it was "very distressing" to her, since she had been taught all her life that the gay lifestyle was a tragic one, based on "one-night stands and that sort of thing. Yet here was a 70-year stable relationship, and it was very moving."

Lucky gay and lesbian festivalgoers saw *Turnabout* this week (June 23 at the Castro), and possibly met Forman Brown at a book signing honoring him at A Different Light. Others will just have to hope that a proposed run at the Roxie happens in early autumn or that KQED picks it up for a prime-time showing. ▼

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The Ways of Life

by Alan Frutkin

On Wednesday, June 30, KQED concludes its celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month with several hours of gay programming. A profile of Cris Williamson's best-selling album, *The Changer and the Changed*, kicks off the evening at 7:30 p.m. and is followed at 9:10 p.m. by two hours of stand-up comedy taped at San Francisco's Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. A documentary on the lesbian and gay political movement airs at 11:00 p.m. And *In the Life*, PBS' gay and lesbian "variety" show, winds up the night at 12:30 a.m., with a look back at this year's March on Washington.

Throughout the evening, KQED will also conduct pledge drives aimed at its gay and lesbian audience. It's even flying up Garrett Glaser, *Entertainment Tonight* correspondent and occasional host of *In the Life*, from Los Angeles to attract those all-important gay and lesbian dollars. But the recent flap over KQED's decision to air the *Angels in America* documentary in a later time slot (bumped by a Lawrence Welk program, no less) puts the station's priorities, and its commitment to the gay community, in serious question.

Still, if it weren't for this "celebration" and the promotion surrounding it, chances are you might not know when gay-related shows, such as *In the Life*, air. In fact, the seven *ITL* shows that have already aired this year were broadcast with such little advertisement that you might not even know they exist. Over the last season, which was also its first, some of the performers featured on *ITL* included Lily Tomlin, Kate Clinton, Frank Maya, and David Drake. There was a video tribute to the late Vito Russo. And one program fo-

cused entirely on country music.

Getting the Word Out

ITL originates from New York public television station WNYC, and it now airs on 60 PBS stations nationwide. But *ITL*'s executive producer, John Scagliotti, admits that getting the word out to gay and lesbian viewers about *ITL* is still a problem. "Our understanding was that stations have their own promotion departments, that they send out the tapes, and that they call up the press." To his surprise, no one has done that. "They're afraid," he said. "They don't want to tell their straight viewers it's on."

And that type of homophobia affects every aspect of the show. So far there has been no major underwriter for the series. According to Scagliotti, most PBS series receive 60 percent of their funding from underwriters. And ever since Bob Dole (R-Kansas) attacked the show on the Senate floor last June, Scagliotti says PBS has refused to kick in money as well. So *ITL* relies almost solely on membership dollars — viewers who pledge money directly to the program.

The show's content is also affected. Scagliotti (whose previous credits include the acclaimed documentary *Before Stonewall*) often finds himself using the term "non-confrontational" to sell the series to reluctant program directors. "Programming departments are not ready for a gay and lesbian series," he says. "Every time we do something as gays and lesbians, in and of itself, it's confrontational."

Noticeable Absence

Yet by watering down the program for its non-gay viewers, Scagliotti admits he risks alienating the very audience for whom he created the series — lesbians and gays.



Charles Busch, the season standout on *In the Life*

"When you have to be inclusive of everyone, the program suffers a bit because of that." In fact, for a community that prides itself on defining America's cutting edge, what's most noticeably absent from *ITL* is any kind of edge at all. Imagine a gay twentysomething (who loves The

Smiths, who listens to Suede) watching the *Flirtations* on *ITL* sing an updated gay version of "Mr. Sandman," and you get a glimpse of how far from the edge this show can be.

According to Scagliotti, however, Chicago's PBS station "bleeped" out lines from

"Mr. Sandman" that it considered too controversial. That's the mentality *ITL* is up against.

And that's Chicago. The show also airs in Evansville, Indiana. "It's important for people to understand," says Scagliotti, "that the sophistication of a city like New York or San Francisco doesn't exist everywhere."

But the terms "edge" and "non-confrontational" aren't necessarily contradictory, and Scagliotti says the show is still finding its way. For example, after three outings, the variety style format, with which the show began, became too costly. Scagliotti now favors the news-magazine format used in next week's installment.

But, by far, the best *ITL* show was part faux-magazine, part self-contained horror flick, hosted by the actor, Charles Busch. This program previewed films that are currently making the rounds of the gay and lesbian film festivals. Busch plays a number of different roles — both women and men — to set up the clips, and he doesn't miss a beat. If there's a model program on which next season should be based, this is it. Its entertainment slant seems much more in line with the series' original intention. And with talent like Lea Delaria and Ian McKellen already lined up for next season, the potential to create similar successes is enormous. Whatever format *ITL* assumes, however, the key to its success will be in finding its edge, and keeping it. ▼

THIS WEEK'S LESBIAN & GAY SHOWS ON KQED

JUNE 25
West Coast Crones
Interviews with nine older lesbians. 9:30pm.

Gertrude Stein and a Companion! Compelling exploration of the writer's relationship with Alice B. Toklas. 10pm.

Out: Desire Documentary and interviews with homosexuals from the Nazi era, and ideas on Weimar sexuality. 11:15pm.

JUNE 27
Longtime Companion Craig Lucas' film about gay men in New York living and dying from AIDS. 10pm.

JUNE 28
Armistead Maupin Novelist discusses *Maybe the Moon* and gay rights. Midnight.

JUNE 29
Two of Us BBC series of school films about two boys who fall in love. 9pm.

JUNE 30
The Changer: A Record of the Times Bonnie Raitt, Holly Near and other musicians are featured in this documentary about Chris Williamson's best-selling album. 7:30pm.

All Out Comedy Karen Ripley, Scott Capurro, Marilyn Pittman and Rom Ammiano in a video of their comedy acts at Josie's. 9:10pm.

Lives in the Balance
Footage of the March on Washington and interviews are included to shape a documentary about our civil rights movement. 11pm.

In the Life: The March on Washington Karen Williams and Garrett Glaser host highlights of the DC event. 12:30am.

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GLM seeks GAM/GLM for serious friendship/relationship. EXT 6560.

GWM seeks possible permanent relationship with GWM. You B/Bl or Gr/Bl. 5'10"6", 140-155, HIVneg, dommt/pass, mature, trusting, prvt, then lv a message. EXT 6561.

Hot looking 21yo college student, 6'2", 220 of rock hard body wants to have fun with hot guys under 34, maybe LTR with right guy. EXT 6562.

Muscular Cauc, 36, seeks ultra smooth lean Asian to date on a regular basis who is monogamous and relationship oriented. EXT 6563.

I'll wear the tie, you wear the constr boots. Attr yng lkg GWM, 32 prof, great hnmk, cook and sex partner, HIVneg sks a real M for rlnshp. Must be well Blt, masc and like to fuck and be worsh. Ser only no trolls, feds or one night stands. EXT 6564.

East Bay GWM, 41, attr, 5'10", 175, moustache, looking for affectionate, romantic man for friendship, relationship. Good sense of humor a plus. EXT 6604.

Mature dad sks naked cock slave for frequent suckoffs on demand. Your place in S.F. Seek LTR. Ser only. EXT 6605. Tall, sexy, unaffected btm sks LTR w/ hung, aggr top. I love art, music, my sm. buss and passionate romance. EXT 6608.

GWM, 44, 6'4", 250, hairy chest seeks LTR with someone else not into gay scene. Kinky and perverted att. You-20-35, smooth, seeking LTR. EXT 6609.

Wm, 37, 5'10", 185, muscular workout reg. Interested in gym regimented WM my size or larger only. HIVpos. Seeking LTR. EXT 6700.

Pacific, 5'10", 175, HIVneg, 48, dark, sip prof, u/c oral, vers, seeks compact blonde to 50, u/c a plus. LTR poss. EXT 6701.

Hairy, Ital GWM, 5'9", 160, 40's, seeks boyish GAM for LTR. Very oral, HIVneg adv exec like life, fun travel. EXT 6703.

Prof BM, 36, 6'3", 260 sks HIVneg, tall, humorous, attr, clean cut, med bld WM 25-35. Frndshp maybe more. EXT 6704.

Answer me this: Why are we not in a rlnshp? No issues of AA/NA, HIVneg, 6'1", 180, 35, sp haired top. EXT 6705.

Straight looking Latin looking for a wealthy and educated W or AM for fun times, dining out, ect. EXT 6706.

Recovering GWM. 37, 140, 5'8", Ital/Gr with handsome face seeks masc buddy in or out of recovery for support and special friendship. EXT 6708.

Hot, GHM boypussy, HIVpos, physically, emotionally and fin stable. 5'8", 130, very attr, eagerly awaits masc, hung GWM tops for fun and poss rlnshp. EXT 6709.

Very attr GAM, 33, 5'9", 160, prof, educ, affectionate, athletic intelligent HIVneg. San Jose seeks lover for LTR 35-55. EXT 6710.

Loverman, O where can you be? 43, 180, 5'10", Br/Bl, N/S, warm, loving. You: 29-35, blondes a plus. Serious only. Be my love. EXT 6711.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Attr GBM, HIVneg, 40's, lives and owns buss in Pacifica sks GWM, HIVneg, 48-65 with a thick 7" to 10" dick that love it sucked for hours. ex-patron of Jack's a plus. EXT 6578.

Wntd: Hot butt lick, WM, 37yo, beefy/ musc sks beefy masc/musc guy to tongue fuck my bubble butt. EXT 6579.

Love to eat yng cuties cavernous bubble butts and unshaven cracks, under 30, 28, musc, long dick/tongue. EXT 6580.

South San Francisco world like to meet SF cocksuckers any race /age. Let's turn a bar into a gay bar. EXT 6581.

Mexican, 5'4", 135lbs, 38yo, bttm, very horny lkg for GWM top for fun. EXT 6592.

Ruggedly handsome bottom looking for hot, healthy, hung top. EXT 6593.

Hot WM, gym bod, hung big, has hungry tongue for well bit, beefy WM with a tight, aggressive bubble butt. EXT 6594.

Hung 8-9' Latin master, 55, 5'11", 180, married, HIVneg, no drugs sks vry sub c/s, tit play, spank's, B/D. San Jose area. Your place. Frds, hip a plus. EXT 6595.

Financial Dist prof for mutual great kisses, nipply play, oral affection, GWM, 5'9", 158lbs, Nordic, HIVpos, smkr, 40's for mentally mature men over 28yo. Videos, sunny yard. Call EXT 6596.

Very attr, shamelessly rich and a body to die for. If you fit this description, Don't reply to this ad. Others welcome. EXT 6598.

I need a young stud to cram his cock up in my ass. If you are 19 to 23yo. I am a good fuck. EXT 6612.

W master has trained muscle blk pig boy to eat your asshole clean. Parties videos. EXT 6613.

Ebony and Ivory white male likes getting fucked. Blk male likes eating raunchy assholes for hours. EXT 6614.

Husky WM 40's dad type sks intel, trim, HIVneg, 21 plus partner for tit play, spank, warmth other creative goodies. EXT 6615.

Young handsome Asian male seeks guys under 30 for fun or more. You: Good looking, in shape. EXT 6616.

Deep throat gumjob for u/c dick. Any stats. Smegma, ws plus, by attr WM, fit, 58, 6', 175. My place, Cathedral Hill. EXT 6617.

Hot GWM, 28 sks same to 31 for butt play. Into hot yng men w/ big holes. I'm hairy, cute, you have nice ass. EXT 6619.

Sex partner wanted by 32yo GWM. You be Asian, Latin, White, 25-35yo, versatile. Lets have some hot fun. EXT 6620.

Hot yng Asian w/ smooth toned body lkg for WM. 25-35. Fit, hndsm, mature who like to have sex spontaneously. Can you handle it!!! I'm 27, goodlooking, 45'10", 155. You: Vers, nice toned body, hry and hung a plus. EXT 6621.

GWM, 40, 5'9", 150, stache, HIVneg sks hottub/deck/massage. No money. Sensual relax. You: GM, friendly, stache, 35-50, trim. EXT 6622.

Rough, ready for you. Put your bod, cock and ass up w WM, 45, 5'10", 170, hry, hlthy, wrestle to your defeat. EXT 6623.

Oral service for tops with 8" by GWM, 6'1", 170, yng 40's. Walnut Crk area. Quick drive to S.F. EXT 6624.

You: Asian Top, 43-63: Me: WM, 53, stocky, good heart, sincere, gentle, eddy, sensuous, respectful. EXT 6625.

Attr GWM, 69, 5'8", 155 seeks on going frndshp w/ 18-40 submissive son or/and slave. All fantasies explored. EXT 6626.

Antioch GWM, 35 looking to meet top men who love to be sucked, licked and to fuck rarely used hot ass! EXT 6627.

Cockslave nds master. Masc, aggressive, verbal, hry a plus. I am hndsm, GWM, 5'10", 160, 34, Bl/Blu, hot mouth, deep throat, extra sub. EXT 6628.

I'm seeking a GW/LM 30-40 who is grown up normal, fun loving, caring person. I'm 40's, Br/Br, 5'7", 220. Not getting any younger but nothing wrong with my sex drive both rec or giving, have to meet to know. EXT 6631.

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'10", 140, looking for similar aged GW/LM or couple who want to be sucked and then stretch my hole and fucking the night away. Also into exhibitionism, toys and vid. EXT 6632.

Gdlkg GWM, 38, masc, 5'7", vgd swim bld, 8' cut, top seeks gdlkg GWM 30-40, hr/wt propor or a bit stockier, vgd bld, hry a plus, ex hyg, hung, cut, wide(shaved?) hole, to be rimmed, spanked, sucked, fucked hard. At times you crave 3 ways, Gbangs, me under your ass licking the cocks fucking you. EXT 6599.

Hot ltn cumfreak and asseater sks heavy loaded, horny men for reg sessions. Serious. Call for description. EXT 6600.

Very sexy potential bad boy desires police, firemen, guards and studs in uniform to make me worship/service head to toe. Me: Blonde, 5'9", 140, HIVneg, cop shield, tattoos, handlebar moustache, flattop, bottom or top, very versatile and kinky. EXT 6602.

Oakland late nite jerk off, dirty talk, ritual c/b worship. One on one lengthy encounters. M bonding, phallic worship, i/o obsession. EXT 6603.

Stocky Blk fucker dad sks BB/husky btm's. I'm 36yo. I suck your nipples, you suck my dick. I fuck you. Art model needed too. EXT 6610.

Asian/Latin guys wntd for BJ's. My place you be 23-35. In shape. I'm 30, 5'9", slim build. Let me sck you dry. EXT 6611.

Southbay dicks like dick's wet mouth. No greek. Oral, safe sexn, fun guy-guy. Warm massage friendly. Treat me to you. Feel less stressed. EXT 6639.

Masc, musc, Italian, hung big looking for bubble butt for long power fuck sessions. EXT 6640.

Clean shaven, in shape, smooth WM wanted by similar Asian, 45, 5'9" into sensual body exploration and safe, hot sex. EXT 6641.

I am WM lkg for a BM 29 plus. I am healthy, would like sexual romantic times together. S.F. area only. EXT 6606.

Italn, 5'8", 125lbs, gdlkg, in shape, mid 30's, hung, deep throat, tight ass, wants long sessions w/one or more. EXT 6643.

GWM, 38, hairy, husky, balding w/ moustache seeks guy 20-30 w/ attr boyish looks. I enjoy bicycling, SciFi, F, Lms, versatile saf sex. EXT 6644.

Black men 18-45 wanted by GWM, 40. I lick your feet, suck your dick. You order, I obey. Get over. EXT 6645.

Str/Bl only who don't get enough head. Bearded bear in eBay wants to satisfy you at his place. Please call. EXT 6647.

Hung guys wanted by me for fun and goodtimes. I am looking for someone who is 9 inches or more. EXT 6648.

Jackoff cock, talk 'bout cock, worship cock, drink and smoke to cock, party cock midnite date East Bay. EXT 6649.

LM, 30, 160, extra handsome vers bttm, nice body, ass, dick craves donkeydickdudes for heavy butt abuse. EXT 6550.

Mature, virile, healthy, HIVneg WM, exfootball player build. Superior cock and more, according to need. No limits, for devoted cocksucker's. Talent, exper, hunger more important than looks. Age/race/ health unimportant. EXT 6657.

Bootlick dog slave for mature virile master. EXT 6658.

49yo top, 6'1", 50lbs, 9'cock wants hot yng W ass to fuck. Must be under 40 and smooth bodied. No bears. EXT 6659.

ltn, 5' 8", 125, swimmer wnt well hung men over 30 for sess of play. EXT 6660.

Latino 30yo, 5'4", 140, sks hung big top any race who would enjoy pounding a hot ass. Let's do it. Call EXT 6661.

Older cocksucker wants younger dominant for play. Verbal OK. I'll hang and please your heart's content, EXT 6662.

Wanted: Mature black man. I am a very handsome, white, 40yo looking for black man 40-60. Sexually vers. EXT 6663.

Bl/Bl BB, mid 20's seeks similar for water sports and scat. EXT 6664.

Two GWM's it 40's seek 1 or 2 play mates for regular fun in our bed, be mature, relaxed and open. We are in shape. EXT 6665.

AD OF THE WEEK

Hispanic man/boy sks GW/H/JM for wild sex, partying, lite B/D, spank. Pierced, tattooed, xtra hndsm. U B hot and slightly kinky. EXT 6699.

1-900-844-2227 - .98 ¢ PER MINUTE - MUST BE AT LEAST 18

Extremely butch and hndsm stud w/ stach into most scenes. No pain. The nastier the better. Only 9's or 10's, who would love to watch a hot dog eat, sniff and otherwise worship the load of hot stinkin' turds from your ass, need call. EXT 6635.

Ass mass, it spank. Me: attr, GWM, 43, 280. You: attr, GWM, 21-35, slim w/ nice buns. Call now. You nd it bad. EXT 6636.

Well bit WM, 5' 11", hung big wants beefy in shape WM. Hairy body w/ round hry bubble butt to eat and fck. EXT 6637.

Natural slave. Arab gdlkg, gr eyes is lkg for a servant position for unforned men. Live out, no money. EXT 6638.

Love to admire the jock toned, strong thighs dude. Need real Nordic god. Signed, Drooling. EXT 6666.

Horney yng guys. Big man Latin, ready to swallow the whole thing. Kickback and enjoy expert service. EXT 6667.

Hot ass FFB fit 57, 6', 170, beard, tats, piercings, B/D, sling needs viscous S/M top fist any stats. XX Power. EXT 6668.

Two hndsm discreet GWM seek 3rd for C.H.P. fantasy. Mst be rough, top, hndsm, in shape. 43-50. San Diego. EXT 6669.

Handsome athletic Latin, 32yo, 135, 5'4" looking for White healthy top. Be athletic, D/Alc free, 8' plus. EXT 6670.



BARTALK

1-900-844-2227

EACH CALL IS ONLY 98¢ PER MINUTE. YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD. BARTALK IS A SERVICE OF THE BAY AREA REPORTER.

PHOTO: STEVE SANDS

GWM, 38, hairy, husky, balding with a handlebar moustache seeks guy 20-30 with attractive boyish looks. EXT 6582.

GBM, 6ft, 220, 43yo, musc, HIVneg, 8', hairy seeks Australian, Latino bottom. Nonsmokers. EXT 6583.

Cocksucker needs practice. 24, Asian, smooth sks cin shwn yng m only. Size not important. Blondes a plus. EXT 6584.

Tall, handsome, buffed men wanted by E. Bay guy in tight leotards. You: Macho. Me: submissive, spread mel EXT 6585.

Incredibly heavy hung thick hard horse cock with tall handsome build, 32yo attached. EXT 6587.

Hairy ass Arab available for training, stretching. Dildos toys and handsome men with sling preferable. EXT 6588.

Gdlkg GWM, 45yo sks gdlkg/hnds GWM any ys old, into fun! Frndshp! Maybe even rom. Are you new in S.F.? I can be your escort and show you everything everywhere. Call me. EXT 6589.

3 way, Blk, BB, short, stocky wanted by generous couple mid 30 and 40. Cin cut, handsome. EXT 6590.

Cut WM skin lover seeks intact guys. Uncut cocks really turn me on. Show me yours. Your place only. EXT 6591.

SAN FRANCISCO'S Gay and Lesbian dating connection

BROWSE BULLETIN BOARD ADS FOR A COMPATIBLE COMPANION.
NEW BARTALK ADS ARE APPROVED DAILY (YOUR MESSAGE WILL TAKE A MAXIMUM
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DIAL 1-900-844-2227
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BAY AREA REPORTER JUNE 24, 1993 PAGE 99

THIS WEEK

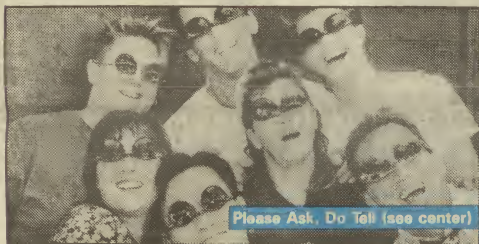
FRIDAY 25

Paved Paradise
John Kelly's whimsical yet devoted musical drag tribute to Joni Mitchell. \$10-12. 8pm, also 10pm Fri. & Sat. Thru 7/4. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Issue of Blood
Animal J. Smith's viral opera work-in-progress, based on the arrest of Wayne Bruce Lee, who was charged with attempted murder for allegedly splattering his blood on a cop. \$5. PWAs free. 9:30pm. Also Sat. Thru 7/3. Lennon Studios, 271 Dore Alley at Bryant. 561-1441.

SF Lesbian Gay Freedom Band
15th anniversary party, with performances by SF Gay Men's Chorus, City Swing, Vocal Minority & others. \$10-50. 8pm. Herbst Theatre. 401 Van Ness. 861-7067.

My Night With Tennessee
Theatre Rhino & Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times' production of Sky Gilbert's dramatic, touching account of a young man's encounter with Tennessee Williams. \$10-12. 8:30pm. Thru 7/3. Theatre Rhinoceros Studio, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.



Please Ask, Do Tell (see center)

A Streetcar Named Desire
All African-American staging of the Tennessee Williams classic, with Blanche DuBois depending on the "kindness of strangers." \$7-10. 8pm. Thru 7/11. Y Theatre, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave. 885-0460.

Deepest Sympathy
Bindestiff Production's new black comedy by Reed Kirk Rahlman. \$7. 8pm. Thru 6/26. Bindestiff Theatre, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Whatever Happened Between Bette and Joan?
Drag comedy about what may have happened between rehearsals of the screen's two queen divas. \$15. 8pm. Also Sat. at 11pm. Thru 7/18. Artful Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-7403.

Jungle Red
Mostly drag musical version of *The Women*. \$13-15. 8pm. Sun. 2:30pm. Thru 7/18. Artful Circle Theatre, 47 Waller. 626-KILL.

Queen of Angels
James Carroll Pickett's sexy, scary AIDS-era retelling of the Orpheus myth. \$14-17. 8pm. Sun. 7pm, weekend mats. at 3pm. Thru 7/3. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

1 Percent My Ass!
Queer performance sampler with Stephen Pelton Dance Company, High Risk Group, Zeltzman & Colburn, Katia Noyes & others. \$5-10. 8:30pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero at McAllister. 775-4604.

Crossing the Line
Photo exhibit exploring the male/female dichotomy, with works by Steven Baratz, Phyllis Christopher, Greg Day & others. Thru 7/17. Opening reception 6-8:30pm. ARU Gallery, 736 14th St. 621-1551.

Why We Have a Body
Contemporary comedy about gender roles, including a dyke detective and a woman who thinks she's Joan of Arc when she's not robbing 7-Eleven stores. \$12-21. 8:30pm, Sun. 2pm & 7:30pm. Re-extended thru July 18. Magic's Southside Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

C.O.Y.O.T.E. Benefit
Carol Queen, It's Amy, Danielle Willis, Haas Beluvva, God's Girlfriend and many others perform in this fundraiser for the sex workers' rights group. \$7-10. 8pm. The Quake, 1748 Haight St. 474-3037.

In Xanadu...Invisible Cities
Epic multimedia shadow theatre work, with members of the Chakram-Pa Tibetan Dance & Opera Company. \$10-14. 8:30pm. Thru Sun. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

G.A.W.K.
Open lesbian & gay reading with host Jon Sugar. Free. 8pm. Fruitopia, 1515 Polk. 731-2424.

Girth & Mirth
17th anniversary party. 8pm. Info: 824-0260.

Lesbian Videos
Framing Lesbian Fashion (dyke dress codes thru time, with Sally Gearhart, Kitty Tsui & others), *Y-Front* (a woman obsessed with a female cross-dresser), and *Phobophilia* (juxtaposition of Mitchell Bros. & zoo footage). \$5-10. 7pm. Also Sat. 1800 Square Feet, 719 Clementina. 255-8510.

Beyond Therapy
Christopher Durang's quirky farce about shrinks, love, lorn bisexuals, and nut job therapists. \$20. 8pm. Hotel York's Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Pageant
Hilarious musical drag parody of beauty contests. \$29-34. Wed. & Thu. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. 7 & 10pm, Sun. 3 & 8pm. Palace Theatre, Kensington Park Hotel, 450 Post. 989-SHOW.

Not Without My Nipples!
Comedy musical hostage drama about a made-for-TV movie, a salad, and a boob job, with Melanie Hutsell of *Saturday Night Live*. \$10-15. 8pm. Sat. at 7 & 9:30pm. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 863-7576.

The Exorcist: Dance Macabre
Horror comedy with modern dance and swill spilled (plastic covering given out). Side (and peal) splitting fun. \$10. 9pm. Also Sats. thru 7/3. Bernice St. Playhouse, 21 Bernice St. 863-5946.

Country Western Dance
Benefit for SF Fringe Riders, with lessons. \$12-15. 9pm-midnight. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 647-9670.

Queer Looks
Film fest participants Pratibha Parmar, Catherine Saifield and John Greyson discuss lesbian and gay films. Free. 5pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

SATURDAY 26

Holly Near: Fire in the Rain
...Singer in the Storm
Award-winning life story set to music performed by the women's music pioneer (note: we're not sure how much of her life is in this show, since the press release nowhere contains the word "lesbian"). \$28-34. Wed. & Thu. 8pm, Fri. & Sat. 8:30pm. 7:30pm, mats. 2pm. Thru 8/1. Stage Door Theatre, 420 Mason. 433-9500.

Coconut
Adele Prandini's musical fable of ecological concerns and gay tourists and detectives. \$10-17. 8pm. Thru 6/26. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason. 861-5079.

Glue, Pansy Division, C.W.A.
Special triple bill queer/dyke pre-Parade queer rock show. \$3. 10pm. Elbo Room, Valencia at 17th. 552-7788.

Hello Dolly
Lamplighters Music Theatre performs Broadway's biggest musical. \$24. 8pm. Sun. 2pm. Thru 8/1. Presentation Theatre, 2350 Turk at Masonic. 752-7755.

Like Dog and Dog
Compelling drama about the small Spanish town officials who arrested and killed gay poet Federico Garcia Lorca. Thru 6/26. \$6-10. Eighth Street Studio, 2525 8th St. (& Dwight), Berkeley. (510) 549-9446.

Tamasha!
South Asian variety show of music, dance, Hindi pop and more, benefiting Shamakami, Sahana & Trikone. \$5-10. 7pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 826-7370.

Gay Comedy Night
Homo humor. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

The Substance of Fire
Jon Robin Baitz's acclaimed drama about a Holocaust survivor faced with forsaking his moral standards to survive. \$12-21. 8:30pm. Sun. at 2 & 7:30pm. Thru 7/11. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

The Moon
Second installment of Henry Steele's mythical drama, this time about Ariadne's appearance on the human plane as Salome's mom. \$7-12. 8pm. Thru June. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235.

X-licit Act of Intimacy
Nude activists in five-hour poetic performance ritual, with body readings and a "tour of touch." \$12. 5pm. New College, 777 Valencia near 16th. (510) 540-0907.

Dancing Lady
1933 backstage musical film with Joan Crawford, Clark Gable, Franchot Tone & Fred Astaire. Free. 7pm. Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (510) 548-8283.

Beat
Literary cabaret about poets and bongo-beating goateed types like Kerouac, Corso, & Ginsberg. \$15. 8pm. North Beach Repertory Theatre, 2nd fl., the Cannery, 2801 Leavenworth. 928-4860.

Good Morning in the Grove
Open house at the AIDS Memorial Grove. 9am-noon. de Laveaga Dell, Golden Gate Park. 621-3260.

Stargazers' Matchmaking Party
Astrological date-rama for women seeking women. \$10-15. 7:30-11:30pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (800) 782-7497.



Crossing the Line (FRI.)

For dancery doings, attend Ballet Minddance San Francisco's *Change Partners IV*, a benefit performance for Project Open Hand. Works to be performed include *Requiem*, set to Mozart's choral masterpiece, and *Two Tangos*. 8pm. The Green Room, War Memorial Veterans Building. \$25 with a champagne reception. 255-4626.

Saturday

Frontrunners invades Golden Gate Park for a huge run. Start and finish are at the south end of the Polo Field. 9am Registration (with T-shirt) is \$20. Awards in both genders & all age categories. 863-0954.

Don't miss the **Dyke March**, an all-women, lesbian and bisexual march of pride, visibility and power. Just like the numbers and festivities at the DC Dyke March, its enormity just may overwhelm you. Gather at 7:30pm at Market and Castro. March to the Post-Dyke March Block Party and Rally, with dancing in the streets, Pat Wilder's Band, comedians and DJs. 9pm. 330-8932. Men and hats please enjoy the view from the sidewalk.



Change Partners IV

Here's a new "compromise" for *Uncle Barney Please Ask, Do Tell*. Actually it's the biggest queer comedy fest in a while and a perfect warmup for the frivolities of Sunday. Tan Ammann, Suzy Berger, Scott Capurro, Patrick Lee, Sabrina Matthews, Marilyn Pittman, Karen Ripley, Deb P. Satterfield, Scott Silverman & Karen Williams! Whew! With all this talent, you'll be sure to rip a gut laughing! Think of all the funny lines you can steal! Two shows: 7pm & 9:30pm. \$14. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 885-0750. Proceeds benefit AIDS Emergency Fund.

Western Star Dancers will hold a pre-parade square dance. \$6. 7:30pm. St. Paulus Church (Gough & Eddy). Canadian caller Anne Eubelocker will lead in Mainstream and Plus levels, so pros and newcomers can enjoy themselves. 621-6506.

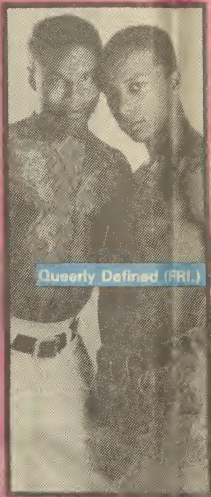
The clubs will be crawling with randy locals and tourists. At Product, enjoy the talents of *The Del Rubio Triplets* (who will also perform Sunday at the Clubhouse. \$5. 5pm. 3160 16th St. 561-9771). Schmooze in the new outdoor garden, dubbed Clown Alley. The night is called "Big Top." Get it 1015 Folsom. \$10. 431-2697.

Sunday

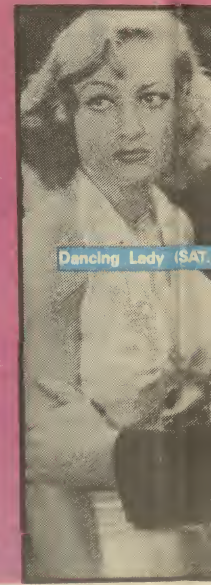
Holy Homo: Before the Parade, MCC has holy communion with a sermon by lesbian Baptist preacher Rev. Sharna Sutherland. At 7pm. Rev. Jim Mitulski gives a sermon on "The Queerness of Christ." Celebrate lesbian and gay spirituality. Both events are at MCC, 150 Eureka St. 863-4434.

As to the Parade itself? Yes, the direction is reversed, and thousands of sedentary queens are all in a tizzy. The March starts at Civic Center and goes down Market to the Embarcadero. Don't like the word Queer? Make a sign that uses some other word. There are so many to choose from: Fairy, Nancy Boy, Lavender Crow, Pogue. Take your pick, then survey the scads of folk all enjoying the day and not worrying about such trivial topics. Expect the usual suspects performing, Patsy Cline, Elvis Herselvis, Sister Double Happiness and others. See our special section for details.

After the parade, hoof it up under the sun at the **Gay Freedom Day Street Party**, a benefit for the AIDS Health Project. \$5. 3pm-1am, directly in front of Pleasure Dome (the dance sponsor) at Townsend St between 2nd & 3rd. Want to volunteer? Call 974-1156. Enjoy your weekend! Play safe, and stay out!



Queerly Defined (FRI.)



Dancing Lady (SAT.)

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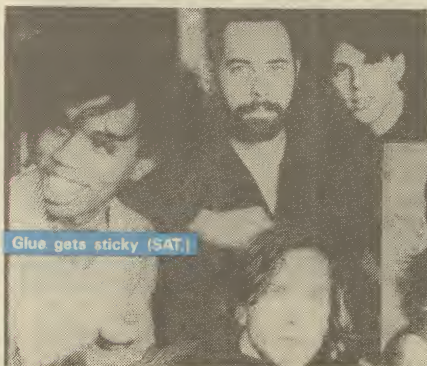
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SUNDAY 27

Justin Bond
Cabaret tunes by our local diva. Also Burlap & Pearl, Tzaamboni & the Hat Band; a perfect basement getaway after the Parade. 8:30pm. Cabaret Du Nord, 2170 Market at Sanchez. 861-5016.

Naked Tribal Heat
Nude, substance free, touchy feely dance event. \$20-30. 3153 17th St. 552-3242.

Black Men's Xchange
Benefit for outreach group of African Americans with HIV. \$10-15. 4pm. Goldie's Tri-Level Bar, 1081 Post St. (510) 839-9138.



Glue gets sticky (SAT.)

Caca at Kiki
Scatological exhibit of 12 artists exploring poop as both a function and a metaphor, or to quote a line from *Jurassic Park*, "That is one big pile of shit." Thru 7/4. Kiki, 483 14th St. 863-5454.

Queerwork
Art by Cecilia Dougherty & Leslie Singer. Thru June. Women's Art Project, 3543 18th St.

MONDAY 28

Sister Double Happiness
Hard homo rock, plus John Spencer Blues Explosion. Record release party for both groups. \$6. 9pm. The Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero. 831-1914.

Arturo Galster
Performing as Chesty Baker (Chet's sister), this popular drag star croons tunes every Monday thru June. \$2. 9pm. Cabaret Du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Gay Comedy Open Mike
MC Mark Davis. Aspiring comics can call to sign up by 7pm. \$5. 8pm. Josie's, 16th & Market. 861-7933.

Lesbian/Gay Artists
Group exhibit of four artists. MCC Community Center, 4035 18th St.

TUESDAY 29

Dreaming in Color
Upfront, a new cabaret group (David Salinas, Judy Madden, Georganna Reis and Deane Larson), performs pop classics in a benefit for Project Open Hand. \$10. 8pm. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

The Closets are Empty...
The Dining Room's Full Author Ace London discusses his years as a publicist for Mahalia Jackson, Jayne Mansfield and others, and his early gay activism. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Bruce of L.A.
Frederic Ohringer Physique nudes, florals and still lifes by two photographic masters. Thru 7/10. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary, 4th fl. 788-8438.

Torsos: A New Body of Art
Works by LA artist Justus, aka Joseph Michael Litzinger. Thru 7/31. The Lone Star, 1354 Harrison, and Cocktails, 201 9th St.

Jerome Caja
Intimate erotic paintings. Thru June. Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. 863-6623.

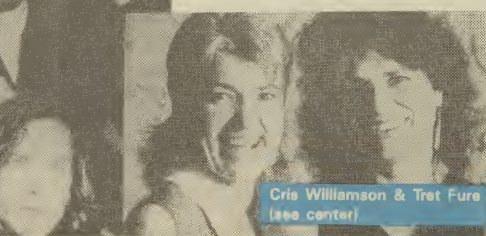
WEDNESDAY 30

I Was a Teenage Serial Killer
Sarah Jacobson's B-movie parody film. Also live music by the Highlander Twos and the Trashwomen. \$5. 9pm. Chameleon Club, 853 Valencia St. 821-1891.

The Dead Boy
World premiere of Joe Pintauro's drama about delinquent boys and the priest who helps them, only to have one accuse him of sexual abuse. Thru 8/1. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D. \$10-17.50. 474-8855.

Bratmobile
Rock time at Faster Pussycat. 10pm-ish. \$4. The Clubhouse, 3160 16th. 561-9771.

March on Washington
Photos by Steve Thompson. Thru 7/6. Castro Country Club, 4058 18th. 552-6102.



Cris Williamson & Tret Fure (see center)

Being at Home With Claude
Canadian film about a sexy gay hustler who brutally kills his lover, and his drawn-out confession. Thru 7/7. \$6. Castro Theatre, Castro & Market. 621-6120.

Perspectives on Self
Group photo show of nudes, drags, still lifes & over the edge imagery. Opening reception 8pm. Thru 7/20. Eichelberger's restaurant, 2742 17th St. 863-4177.

Stephen Savage
New work by the community's best known male nude photographer and his assistant, David Meanix. Thru 6/30. Josie's, 16th at Market. 861-7933.

Queer Mysteries
David Cannon Dashiell's exhibit of art placing the Dionysian initiation ritual in a gay and lesbian context. Thru 7/3. SF Art Institute, Walter McBean Gallery, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Orlando
Sally Potter's rich pageant of a film based on Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel of shifting gender identities through the ages. Tilda Swinton and Quentin Crisp star. Opera Plaza Cinemas, 601 Van Ness. 771-0102.

Living Sober Conference For people in recovery. June 27. AA meeting, 4:50pm. Signed for the hearing impaired. Call for location. 206-1556. Volunteer night, 5pm-8pm. June 30, for the July 25 Living Sober Conference at Larkin Hall, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. 206-1556.

Project Inform Town Meeting Report from the 9th International AIDS Conference in Berlin. 7:30pm. June 30. UCSF Laurel Hts. Aud. 3333 California at Presidio. Sublevel one. 558 9051.

Free Self-Defense Classes SF Street Patrol instructs gays & lesbians every Sunday, 3-4pm, Collingwood Park, 18th & Fureka. Also two-hour session June 25. 7pm, golden Gate Lutheran Church, 601 Dolores. 985-7423.

Lesbians With Age-Related Eyesight Loss Resources, issues and self-help strategies. National Association for Visually Handicapped. 221 3201.

Yoga Classes Classes focusing on immune system reparation through yoga. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-10am & Wednesdays, 7:45-9:15pm. 848 Polson St. 647 7110.

Bay Area Military Freedom Project Veterans willing to wear their uniforms in the Gay Freedom Day Parade call 306-0477.

SF AIDS Foundation Volunteers needed in the client services department for one 4 hour shift a week. Call Eileen Blumenthal. 864-5855, ext. 2051.

THURSDAY 1

Keith Haring's My Idol
New York playwright Larry Myers' five one-act plays. \$7-12. 8:30pm. Thru 7/25. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

visAbility
Brenda Prager's photo exhibit explores sensuality issues of disabled people. Thru 7/31. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 641-8640.

Queerly Defined
Group exhibit of gay & lesbian photography exploring the varied aspects of the queer body. Thru 7/8. Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission St. 431-6911.

Frank Pietronigro
Figurative paintings of gay pride in an Americana context. Thru June. State of the Art Gallery, 524 Hayes. 255-7264.

March on Washington
Photos by Steve Thompson. Thru 7/6. Castro Country Club, 4058 18th. 552-6102.

Visual Artists Salon
Lesbian, gay, bi pride expressed in art. Thru July. Bearded Lady Cafe & Gallery, 484 14th. 626-2805.

Wasting Architecture
Durham Crout and other artists' collaborative installation exploring connections between homophobia, HIV and buildings. Lec/dem, 7pm. Exhibit thru June. Cal. College of Arts & Crafts, Main Gallery, 1700 17th St. 495-2445.

Hypothalamic In(Queer)lies & Tit for Twat
Photographic exhibit and installations about brainy lesbian and gay lives and bodies. Thru 7/17. SF Camerawork, 70 12th St. 621-1001.

Mirror-Miro
Group exhibition of surreal sketches, paintings, sculptures and functional art. Thru 8/1. Archtrave, 541 Hayes. 621-4923.

American Buffalo
David Mamet's blunt tragic play. \$8. 8pm. LaVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. (510) 869-4669.

Gay Pride Week Specials

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Lesbian/Gay Chorus
Readies Annual Concert

Singing Proud

by Philip Campbell

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco is set to perform the 15th Annual Pride Concert on Friday, June 25, at Herbst Theatre. For a new generation of listeners, as well as faithful fans, it would be hard to pick a better start for the parade weekend.

Artistic Director Pat Parr remains enthusiastic and fairly bursting with good ideas, after taking over from original Music Director Rodger D. Pettyjohn seven seasons ago. Parr's newer and younger voices ensure attunement with the community, and he wants to enlarge the audience base while including future travel plans and more outreach programs.

These are ambitious goals for a group that is 13 years old, but the Lesbian/Gay Chorus has always been something of a model organization — a healthy mix of ages, colors, and genders. Executive Director Phill Barber promises results on a working budget of \$100,000, and we believe him.

Working with other local arts institutions is one way of staying fresh, and ties with Lavender Arts Alliance, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and Winds of Free-



The women and men of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus stand tall among the redwoods

dom (the concert crew of the Marching Band) provide support and a marvelous talent pool.

Corporate America is not ignored either, and even a monolith like Pac Bell can succumb to the public relations possibilities of the chorus. A soon-to-be performed 55-minute concert will be taped and distributed within the organization.

Well-known nationally for their participation in

conferences and tours, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus is particularly thrilled about its upcoming trip to the Pacific Northwest and a recently confirmed commitment to appear in Seattle's Meany Hall. A first compact disc is projected for the holiday season.

Sweeping Scope

The oldest and largest mixed voice chorus is clearly set for another 13 years, and

the scope of the new Pride Concert proves their aspirations.

Co-hosts Gail Wilson, the super singer from City Swing, and the irrepressible Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton, will front for a gala assembly of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Winds of Freedom, Voices: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble, and The RhythmaMethod — fourchirps from the Denver chorus who might be described as the lesbian Flirtations.

Getting this large cast and crew on and off stage could make for an entertaining evening alone, but the bright Ms. Wilson and the barbed ad-libs of La Jose should keep things moving, and the program will include everything from classics to Garth Brooks.

For their share of the proceedings, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will preview a movement from *Legacies*, a commissioned work they will perform complete later in their season.

Charter members of the

Lesbian/Gay Chorus, Rose Mary Mitchell, Linda Rohde, and Michael Clark, must be awed by the current size of the group: 100 members with approximately 90 scheduled to appear on the 25th. Time commitments and dedication will pay off when Pat Parr takes the podium. He will also accompany Voices (a chorus subgroup like the GMC's Menage) at the piano.

The fall concert will be dedicated to gay and lesbian composers, including the American master of choral works Randall Thompson and newly out Janis Ian. For now, the focus is on community, pride, and a coming-together of every aspect of gay society. It is what the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco was founded for and what they intend to sing about on Friday. ▼

Editor's Note: Tickets for the concert may be obtained by calling City Box Office at 392-4400 or the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco at 861-7067.

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A Few Good Queers

by Noreen C. Barnes

Tale Spinners and Theatre Rhinoceros will jointly produce a work on lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in the military, based on oral histories, with the current working title of *Now Is the Time for All Good Men, Women, Gays, Lesbians, Fags, Dykes, Bisexuals, Queers to Come to the Aid of Their Country*. Playwright Lee Jenkins is seeking to "get the community involved in the development of the play" by interviewing those who served who would like to share their stories with her.

Jenkins says that she is "particularly interested in the stories that women have — and both male and female bisexuals. The experience of bisexuals really hasn't been addressed by anyone yet. And the range of experience

is important — I want to include the positive aspects of life in the service as well as the witch hunts, and to try to work to explain the relationships among gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the military, as well as with the straight service people who interacted with them."

The playwright is a professor of speech communication at San Francisco State University, specializing in developing spoken-word performance from oral histories and personal narratives. She has been a member of the Tale Spinners' Oral History Playwrights Project for six years, and her play, *Dangerous Beauty*, was produced at The Marsh and Climate Theatre.

If you would like to participate as an interviewee for this project, please call Tale Spinners Theatre at 550-9104 by July 15. ▼

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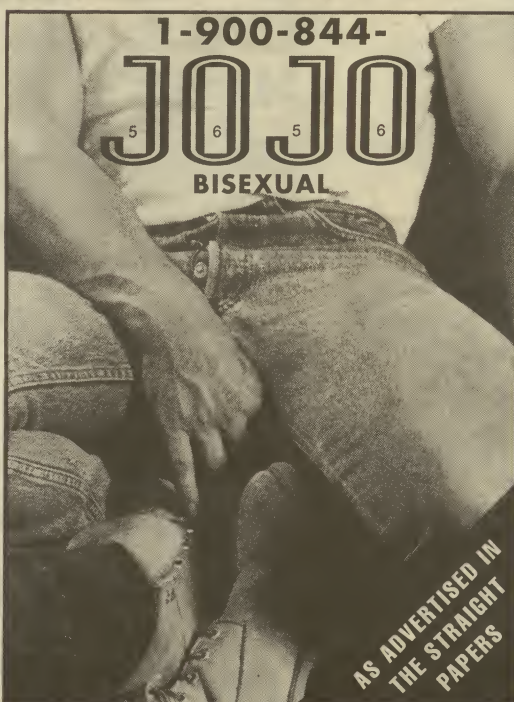
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

To Your Health

Facts About Aging

by Dianne Aaronson

If you've been feeling lazy lately and either have not yet started your exercise program or are starting to slack off on the one that you already have, don't! The sad fact is, that if you want to stay in shape and remain (or become) healthy, fit, and trim, you're stuck with some type of exercise program for the rest of your life.

First of all, diet alone just won't do it. People who diet without reinforcing the weight management program with exercise will just continue to lose lean muscle tissue along with the fat.

Secondly, all the literature states that a person will become deconditioned in about as much time as it took him or her to get into condition. In other words, if and when you choose to discontinue exercise, regardless of the particular type (running, weight lifting, swimming, etc.), you could be right back where you started in just a matter of months. Just how long is also determined by how advanced

your current level of fitness is.

If, on the other hand, you need to quit exercise for a while due to illness, do not be alarmed. Your body will spring back into shape fairly quickly, depending on how long of a break you need to take.

Regardless of whether you're young at heart or actually still pretty young (for the moment, anyhow), there are some brutal facts regarding aging that cannot be avoided.

Basal Metabolic Rate

From a physiological point of view, certain things happen to a person's body as they grow older. One is that the basal metabolism slows down. Those of you who are a decade or so past your twenties have probably noticed that you just don't burn up calories the way you used to. Not only can you not get away with eating as much junk as you used to, but even good food seems to turn to fat a lot easier. There are a number of possible reasons.

One is that you just don't have as much time or inclination to be active as you did in your twenties. Being active in and of itself helps to keep the metabolism revved up and therefore burning more calories at rest. But even those of you who have remained fairly active must concede to age. A person's basal metabolism decreases by two percent each decade after 20. After 30, muscle mass decreases, followed by a decrease in muscle strength.

These hard facts, combined with a few other factors, can lead to creeping obesity and an increase in body weight by one-half pound of fat per year. It may take you a while to realize you've gained fat if you go by the scale rather than by how you look and feel — because you may continue to weigh the same in pounds for quite some time.

However, don't be fooled. That lean tissue is being replaced by fat even as you sit reading this article. The loss in lean tissue slows the metabolism even more. This is why older adults tend to

Pool

Whited's Death Overshadows Series

The SF Pool Association was stunned last week by the unexpected death of league president Norman Whited of AIDS-related complications. "Norman didn't think his current bout with his illness was that serious, and he refused to allow us to think it was," said his aunt, Jeanine Matheson. His loss cast a somber shadow over last week's playoff matches.

Fools Foil Cinch's Spoilers

The semifinal showdown

between the Cinch Spoilers and Tien Fulishness provided all the drama that teams with the two best records should have generated. Four of the Spoilers were veterans of three-peating defending champion Q-Club teams, while the Fulishness was staffed by three league Hall of Famers — Lauren Ward, E.Z., and Luby Pelletier — and backed up by solid veterans, Rick Mariani and Lynn Westhoven.

Their first face-off saw Ward

(Continued on page 111)

have a higher percentage of body fat, especially if they are relatively sedentary. However, exercise helps to burn fat and maintain or increase lean tissue, therefore "reversing" or at least taking the edge off of the aging process.

Functional Capacity

Something else that decreases with age is what is known as a person's "maximal functional capacity" or maximum oxygen consumption. Max O₂ is measured in terms of how much energy a person has available to them — how long and/or how hard they can exercise.

Cardiac patients and athletes are two groups that are often tested for this capacity, through the use of a treadmill or cycle ergometer test. By the time a person is around 25, they've reached their peak, after which a decline of nine percent per year occurs!

That's quite an incredible loss if you think about it for a minute. However, conditioned individuals have been shown to lose only two percent per decade. In other words, if you continue to plug away with those barbells or running those 5 kilometers, you'll be doing a lot less huffing and puffing climbing up your stairs at 70 than your peers.

Respiration

Which brings up another advantage of exercise: it will help stave off the inevitable decrease in vital capacity (lung capacity). The continued deep breathing and chest expansion that we experience during exercise may actually help to keep our respiratory muscles stronger longer.

Osteoporosis

Though women are at higher risk of decreasing bone mass and strength (osteoporosis) because of hormonal changes, it affects both genders and can be a life-threatening condition. Many older people die as a result of complications from fragile broken bones.

Weight-bearing exercise (and progressive resistance) has been shown to be the most effective exercise for maintaining bone mass. Even using light hand

weights can help increase bone mass in older adults.

If you think you feel old now, try aging without the help of exercise and see how really lousy you can feel.

Flexibility

Another necessary ingredient that decreases with age is flexibility. The structure of our muscle fibers and connective tissues actually changes physiologically with age. If left unused, they could be in a real mess as the decades roll on. Not only will our hamstrings and lower back muscles be too tight for us to bend down and tie our shoes, we'll also be much more susceptible to injury, because muscles act as shock absorbers for the body. We need that resilience to spring back after a fall or some other accident.

The bottom line is, if you think you feel old now, try aging without the help of exercise and see how really lousy you can feel. I know plugging away can be a real drag at times, but think of the alternative. And you don't need to work out seven days a week either. A moderate three-to-five times per week of some type of cardiovascular exercise (30 minutes will do) along with some weight-resistance sessions (three times per week for 30 minutes) can literally work miracles.

Please note that if you are a woman over 50 or a man over 40 and have been leading a somewhat sedentary lifestyle as of late but would like to get into an exercise program, it is best to have a medical checkup just to be on the safe side. After you've been given the go-ahead, proceed slowly. Give your body time to get used to this lifestyle change. You can always run that marathon next year. ▼

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Lenderink Leads PR Assault

At 29, Rob Lenderink is in the best shape he's ever been in. This year he has run personal best times in four different events, and it doesn't appear as though he's reached the limits of his full potential yet.

His most recent PRs came at the U.S. Track & Field Association's Pacific Division Championships in Los Gatos on June 12. The San Francisco Track & Field Club runner set a personal best mark in the 800 meters at two minutes and another in the 400 meters, running 53.7 seconds. Lenderink also jumped into the 4x100 meter relay and helped the team record a season-best time of 48.2 seconds.

The transplanted Holland native has been nicknamed the "Flying Dutchman" for his relentless efforts at improving his performances. This season Lenderink has run a PR in the 100, 200, 400, and 800 meters. His time in the 800m tied the SFT&F Club record of 2:00 in that event (set in 1990 by Doug Brooks), and he should dip below the two-minute mark before the season is over.

"My training has been right on schedule, and I've been listening to my body more closely this season in hopes of avoiding injury," said the ebullient Lenderink. He was clocking personal best performances last year when a foot injury sidelined him mid-season. Lenderink has been on a strengthening program since then, and his performances so far indicate he's back in top form.

"Rob's been doing a tremendous job," noted co-coach Frank Demby. "His personal best performances have been a real inspiration to the rest of us on the team. And his contribution to the relay teams has us excited

about setting new records in those events."

One of the teammates Lenderink has inspired, and someone he admits is pushing him to stay out front, is new-

"Rob's personal best performances have been a real inspiration to the rest of us on the team."

—Frank Demby

comer Bruce Peters. Peters ran in both of Lenderink's races at Los Gatos and set his own personal best marks, finishing close behind in both the 800m (at 2:07) and the 400m (at 55.7).

"Bruce is just learning to refine his running style," said Demby. "He has tremendous potential and enthusiasm, which will make him a runner to watch throughout the rest of this season and at next year's Gay Games as well."

Six Personal Bests

Overall, SFT&F members scored six personal best marks at the Los Gatos meet. In addition to the dual PRs by Lenderink and Peters, personal best times were recorded by Carlos Ferreira in the 100 meters and Joseph DeFalco in the 800 meters. Season-best marks were delivered by Frank Demby (12.0 in the 100 meters and 25.3 in 200 me-

ters), Eddie Hall (12.3/100m, 24.8/200m), Michele Lewis (28.9/200m), Aaron Levin (2:22/800m) and Reggie Snowden (21'2-1/2"/long jump).

"Everyone gave a tremendous effort at the meet," Demby said, referring to the Los Gatos championships. "If we can keep our injuries in check, this should be a great season for the club."

Keeping injuries in line may be a problem. Although Valerie Scott has returned from a hip injury and Kenneth Parish seems to have overcome his hamstring problem, several members are still hurting.

Demby said that most concern is centered around Eddie Hall and his recurrent shin problem, and Rick Thoman, who seems to be piling up injuries faster than he can recover from them. Also of concern, Snowden (hamstring), Ferreira (ankle), and Lewis (Achilles' tendon).

"So far these problems haven't gotten too far out of hand and we're treating them aggressively," noted Demby. "The athletes are adjusting

their training accordingly and should be back to competing very soon.

Demby reminded those interested in participating in next year's Gay Games that it's not too early to start training. "Our new members have been doing a great job this year, and the experience they're gaining from this season will put them ahead of those that wait until next year to begin training for the Games. In many cases that



Valerie Scott and teammate Rob Lenderink

(Photo: Rick Thoman)

edge is going to make the difference from placing or not placing, or from taking a gold medal as opposed to taking the silver."

The San Francisco Track & Field Club's training sessions are at Kezar Stadium, Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6 p.m., and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. All are welcome to participate, regardless of age or ability. For

more information, call 550-7966.

The SFT&F is continuing to raise funds to attend next year's Gay Games by offering its special rate hotel/airline package to all those interested. For more information contact Bryan Travel at 731-8411 and ask for the San Francisco Track & Field Club's discount Gay Games package. ▼

Softball

GSL Prepares for Playoffs

by Nancy Boutillier

As the regular season came to a close, Gay Softball League officials found themselves facing anything but regular standings. A tie-breaker formula will have the final say in sorting out the playoff pairings, as the Cable Car Division came to a close with the Bear and the Edge deadlocked with 10-4 records on the top of the heap.

In the Barbary Coast Division, Rolo rode the crest of the wave with a 12-2 tally, followed by a four-way tie between Castro Pharmacy, Dotie's True Blue Cafe, Metro Rita's and the Phonebooth, all boasting a 10-4 showing.

By comparison, the Women's Division sorted out with relative ease, as The Cafe once again finished without a loss at 14-0. Pier 50/Olive Oil's followed at 11-3, trailed by Leticia's with a 9-5 record.

Cable Car Division

The Edge had to work hard to hold their edge as the

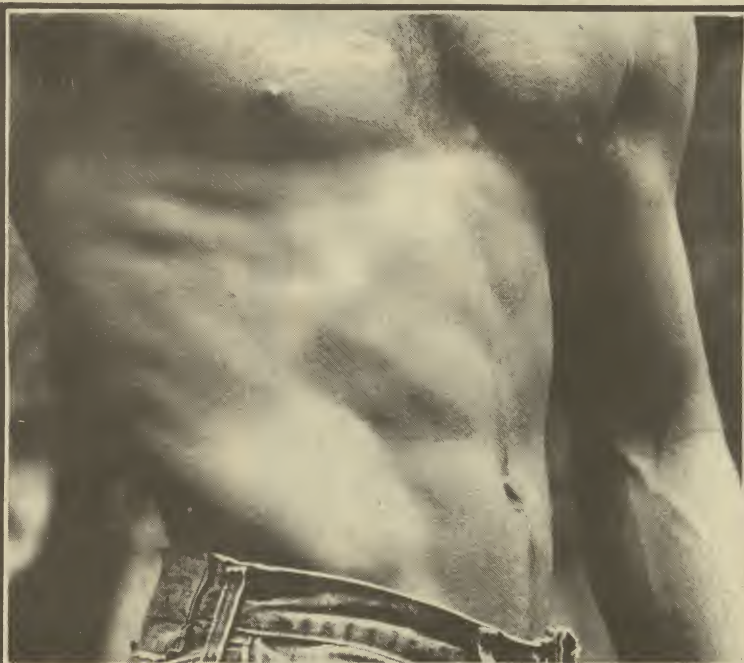
Pendulum Bucs swung out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first. In the bottom of the inning, the Edge batted around the order for ten runs, including a Bobby Bates home-run blast, to triumph, 16-5, and hold onto their piece of the first-place pie.

The Bear held onto a share of the pie, as Skip Schafer hit safely three-for-three, and Kevin Blier's lead-off homer in the fifth sealed the fate of Group Therapy, as the Bear broke loose for an 8-5 victory. Wendy Columbo and Tamara Mallory paced GT's attack.

Mallory and Nancy Warren lead GT's hitting against Rossi Meat/LYRIC, but again five was where their score settled, and RM/LYRIC scored a sweet sixteen, paced by Marilee Mancuso, Gail Hand, and Chris Sumida, winning, 16-5.

Winning Cub pitcher Darrel Haven helped his own cause by scoring four runs in four trips to the plate, as the Cubs took their turn scoring sixteen in a 16-8 win over

(Continued on page 109)



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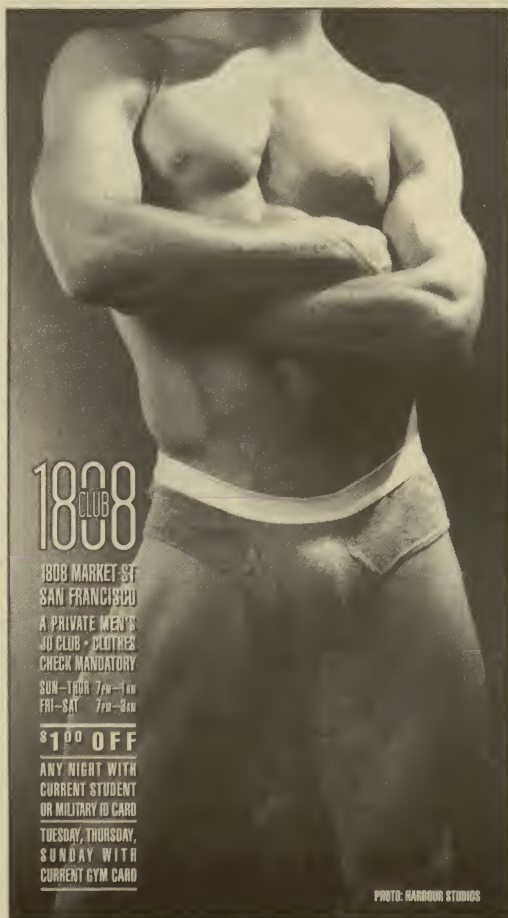
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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

The Party of the Year



Leather Pride Float for 1993 was created and executed by (l to r): Nick Veratakis, James Loughran and Warren Cave. Watch for it in Sunday's parade. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Lots of people have a problem with the theme of this year's gay/lesbian pride parade and celebration, and if their feelings remain as strong as they are this year and they want to make a change for next year, all they have to do is get off their butts and attend the parade meetings. It's as simple as that. If you didn't vote, don't bitch.

I'm really too through hearing all the bitching and complaining. It's a done deal, so get over it — and when the notices of parade meetings are published next year (as they always are), join in and maybe you'll be happier about next year's theme.

Let's get on with a celebration that was originally begun to show solidarity and pride, and let's revel in whatever advances we've made (albeit slow in coming) in being treated like everyone else, instead of the second-class citizen status we've been enduring. No, I didn't attend any of the parade committee meetings; I haven't since I served on the committees of the first three parades. I'm not complaining, and I'm not making judgments on any of the developments. I just want to see our tribe do its thing and have fun, and I hope you all have the same attitude. While in the process, be careful, don't over-indulge in any of your proclivities, and above all, have fun! That's what this Sunday is all about.

When the parade steps off this Sunday, be sure to watch for the Leather Pride Float. For the past few weeks, scores of volunteers under the guidance of Nick Veratakis, Warren Cave and James Loughran have been designing, creating and executing the final version, which you'll all see this coming Sunday. Motorcycle clubbers and independents will escort the float, and leather personages, old and new, will grace the platform. Naturally, none of the

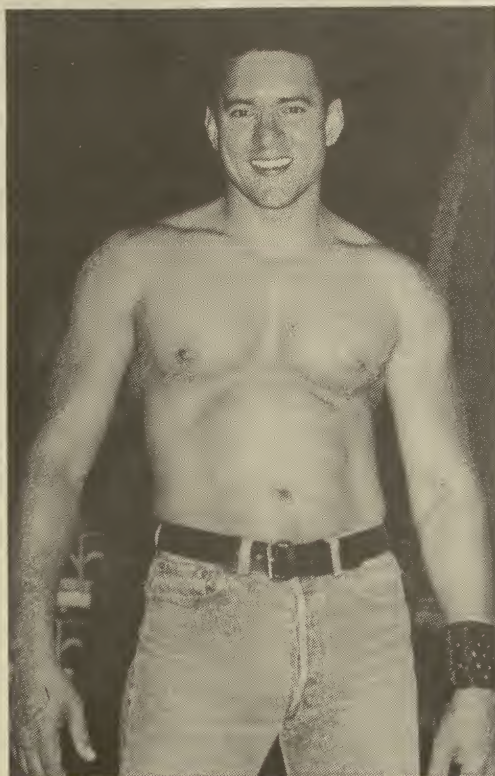
material for this was free, except the blood, sweat and hammering it took to make it a reality, so if you want to help with the expenses, there's a beer/soda bust at the Eagle this Friday, June 25, 2000-2300, for only \$5. I hope you'll all be there in support.

And while I'm at it, if you just can't make it to the parade, the video rushes of the entire event by Knight's Video (formerly B.M.L. Video) will be shown at the Eagle and at Headquarters Bar beginning at 1500. Their cameras will be at the United Nations Plaza, so wave when you march by.

The edited 1993 video goes on sale at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro on Monday, June 28, so be the first in your building to have one! Relive your Year of the Queer experience over and over again!

Lots of tourists have been flooding into town and are out in full force all over the campus. Last Thursday night, International Mr. Drummer 1989, Brian Dawson, blew into town for a business conference and ended up as a

(Continued on next page)



Sid Torres won the November '94 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, June 17 at the Eagle. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Mr. Marcus



Int'l Mr. Drummer 1989, Brian Dawson was one of the bare chest contest judges at the Eagle last week, here with his San Francisco pal, Chris Whipp. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)
judge at the Eagle's Mr. November 1994 bare chest calendar contest along with



Rainbeau will entertain at a night of Erotic Entertainment, Friday, June 25 at the Kennel Club and will undoubtedly wow her fans once again. (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

Josh Bottfeld and Don Nelson. Another hilarious interlude with a half-dozen contestants, and when it was all over, Sid Torres (who was also the first runner-up in the Mr. Edge Leather contest) grabbed the spot with Bill Forbes the runner-up. The final spot, Mr. December, will be chosen on Thursday, July 1, and on July 17, all 12 of them will compete for the cover of the 1994 calendar.

Nice turnout for the Shades Project Show at Lennon Studios on Saturday night, June 19, to benefit the current crop of art works. The shades are on display at the Watering Hole, Lone Star Saloon, Cocktails, The Edge, Borderline and Polk Gulch, and you can make your silent bids for them (to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund) up to the close of business on Sunday night, June 27. Some of them are gorgeous, funny, beautiful, innovative and clever, so buy one. Now.

Meanwhile, there was a huge gathering of two of the area's most popular computer bulletin boards at the Eagle, Eye Contact and Back Door. They had a "modem" contest for both groups, and it was so hilarious that I didn't get the winners' names — a lot of laughs. The bulletin boards bring together a lot of interesting (and some very, very hot) men, and I understand they may be adding a leather

(Continued on next page)

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"FUZZY" Butt Contest
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Castro Lions
Leather Auction
and Beer Bust**

**Sunday, July 11, 1993
Eagle Patio 3 to 6 PM**

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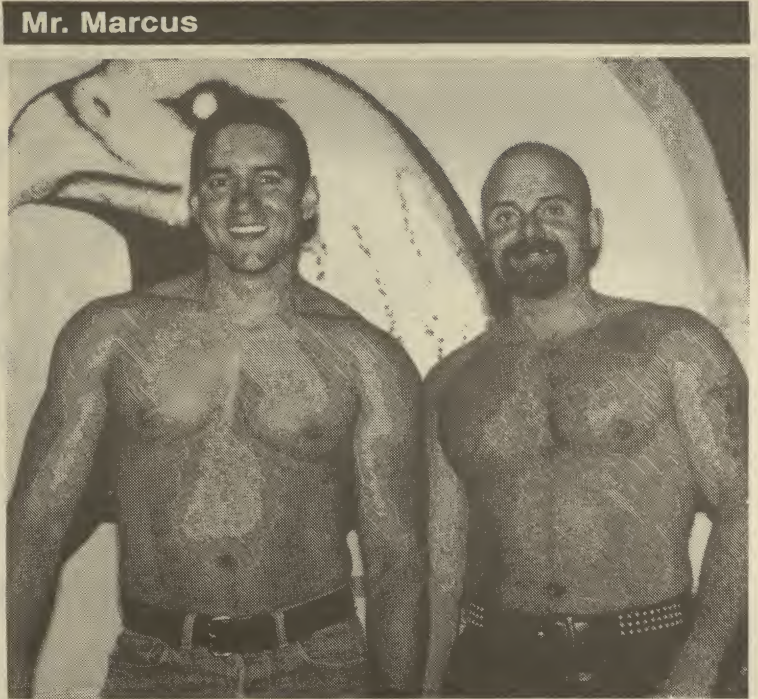
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Suck!
 CONDOMS

Condoms for them that do!!!
TASTE the DIFFERENCE! 12 for \$12.95, 24 for \$19.95, 48 for \$29.95. Send check or money order to: Mail Order International, Dept. TEC1, P.O. Box 2506, Martinez, CA 94553.

SPECIAL NOTE! \$1.00 from the sale of every dozen condoms will go to Trinity Episcopal Church from sales occurring out of this ad. through Dec., 1993.



Sid Torres won the November '94 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, June 17 at the Eagle.
 (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

(Continued from previous page)

news column to their electric menus. Hmmmmm.

No sooner had the BBS (Bulletin Board Service) guys started heading for the hills when a busload of drag queens invaded the Eagle celebrating Joe Sobesiak's (of the Cal Eagles) birthday. And here I thought all the drag queens were on the GDIs weekend run! That bus had been terrorizing all the known gay neighborhoods before they got to the Eagle, so you know they were very, very pretty by midnight!

Joe looked so good (even in "camp" drag) that a wag on the patio chastised him for not entering the Closet Ball! Joe is a million laughs — even when he was their corre-

sponding secretary!

Sunday afternoon, June 20, huge turnout for the Daddy's Day Leather Auction by Don Thompson (and crew) at the Eagle beer/soda bust to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and Godfather Service Fund. Hey, they raised exactly \$6000! Not shabby at all. Between the auction items, Danny Williams and Lenny Broberg traded barbs and wowed the crowd with outrageous remarks directed toward the Dating Game contestants. Fun afternoon. Profitable afternoon.

★ ★ ★

If you want to see a smash-ing video of the March on Washington, Nelson Music and Video Productions has

put together a fabulous two-hour show that will make you extremely sorry you missed the march. It's entitled *San Francisco Leather Pride and the March on Washington* and will be on sale in one of the booths at the Civic Center this Sunday.

Besides all the panoramic beauty of our nation's capital and the million or more people in attendance, the music, camera work and lighting are superb. It captures the essence of leather pride and how it was received by the people watchers — applause all along the way — plus every leather title holder who could make it. It's narrated by several people, and if you need more info, call 776-1979. A must! ▼

Our First Gay Pride & 4th of July VIDEO CLEARANCE SALE

EVERY VIDEO PRICE SLASHED UP TO 70% Off

Unheard Of Savings On The Best All-Male XXX VIDEOS

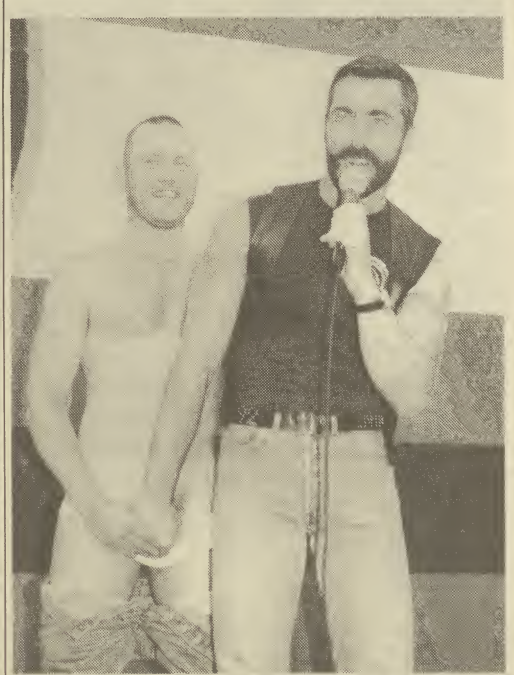
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"I Gotcha," said Lenny Broberg to Mr. SF-Eagle Leather Andy Rose just before he was auctioned off at the Eagle on Sunday, June 13 to benefit the Stop AIDS Project.
 (Photo: Mr. Marcus)

★ ★ Affairs to Remember ★ ★

First off, here's one you will not have to remember: The second annual Powersurge S/M Conference for Women, which was scheduled for Sept. 3-6 in Seattle, has been canceled. The show, "Degenerotica," scheduled for Sunday evening, Sept. 5, will be presented. Any questions? Call Julia Kaplan at (206) 325-6162.

Also, now through July 7, the poster collection of South of Market activities by Mark DeCicco is on the walls of the Jackhammer. Relive some of the big parties and events of the '70s and '80s.

Thursday, June 24: International Mr. Deaf Leather contest at Griff's Bar in Los Angeles tonight. Philip Rubin will be the emcee and the action starts at 2130 — and thanks Bob Donaldson for a good year!

Hot Ash Club night at the Lone Star Saloon beginning around 2000. Smoke till you choke, or better. Cigars available on the premises.

Sluts for Sensation and Club Cream present "Rivers of Cream," a women-only safe-sex play party at the Eros Center. Doors open at 2000 and close at 2400. Bring your own towels, lube and a lock (for your locker) and \$15. Part of the proceeds for *Venus Infers*, Pat Califia's hot new leatherwomen's mag! Pat's praying the premiere issue will be on sale that night.

Friday, June 25: Mr. Central Canada Drummer contest in

Toronto, Canada, tonight and tomorrow night. If you're there, don't miss!

Rainbeau, everyone's favorite stripper, appears in "concert" for a night of erotic entertainment at the Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero. Tix are only \$10 with dancing until 2300 and then the big show. Hot night expected.

Leather Pride Float benefit beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 2000 to 2300 for only \$5! Leather galore, fun, cruising, success!

Rita Rockett and Mark Abramson celebrate their birthdays tonight at Trax on Haight starting at 2100. Gail Wilson and the Fabulous Velcros will perform, all to benefit the Sunday brunches on Ward 5A at SF General Hospital with great door prizes for some lucky people.

Saturday, June 26: 16th Annual Phoenix Uniform Club's Uniform & Leather Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg. (McAllister and Van Ness Avenue). Tickets are \$25 in advance from both Mister S locations and at Leather Masters in San Jose or \$35 at the door with a hosted bar and a lavish buffet dinner. Half the proceeds to the AIDS Emergency Fund; this one is not to be missed, from 1900 to 2300.

Furry Buns contest at the Watering Hole to benefit the Godfather Service Fund from 2000-2300 for a \$5 beer/soda bust. This one should be fun if you're into hirsute posteriors! You can sign

up right up until contest time!

The 15 Association's Gay Freedom Night play party with the usual suspects paying \$10. Sodas provided, but BYOB. Doors open from 2100-2300, and the action goes until 0200. Call 673-0452 for invite and location.

Sunday, June 27: Gay-Queer-Fag-Homo-Fruit-Dyke Pride Parades in San Francisco and Los Angeles as well as other cities across the nation. Don't forget the video rushes begin at 1500 at the Eagle and at Headquarters Bar by Knight Video. Parties galore all over town and especially at the end of the parade here.

Monday, June 28: If you've got any strength left, you might want to get down to Headquarters for David Barnett's pastel renderings of male images. Flawless use of the genre makes it a must-see show! Reception for the artist at 1800, and it will hang until the end of the month.

Thursday, July 1: Final spot on the 1994 Bare Chest Calendar gets filled tonight for Mr. December 1994 beginning at 2200. Win \$100, fame, community commitment. And thanks for all your support of this project.

Weekend, July 2-4: Oregon Drummer weekend in Portland. Drummer Man and Drummer Boy selected on Sunday, July 4, at Darcelle's XV Tavern. More on this one next week! ▼

SAN FRANCISCO

FREEDOM June
27th
DAY PARADE 1993



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50% OF NET PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE AIDS EMERGENCY FUND

Softball

GSL

(Continued from page 105)

Rossi Meat/LYRIC.

Haven got help from Cub teammate Ray Tilton's home-run blast, but this time the Cubs could not hold off the Pilsner Prism attack, as Michele Wagner and Jim Smithy each tagged homers for the Prism in the 13-11 Pilsner win.

Viacom held a 4-0 lead for the first two innings, but the Cinch swung back, tapping out eight in the third and another four in the sixth, including a "Grann slam" blast. In the end, it was the Cinch, 12-7.

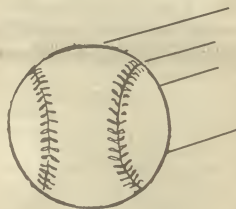
Barbary Coast Division

Solid defense and some timely hitting by Huffin Puffins Kevin Ahart and John Quinn spoiled Dottie's chance of a solo claim to second place in the Barbary Coast Division. The Puffins surprised Dottie's with a 9-5 upset.

Four RBIs tallied by Tim Kneis and a homer hit to Smith-erines helped Metro Rita's to a win over the Rawhide Outlaws, 12-5, giving Rita's a quarter of the bragging rights to a second-place finish.

In a seesaw battle the Lonestar Cockstars kept coming up with the runs they needed to mutiny the Pendulum Pirates' early lead. Mike Belmes hit safely three times and crossed the plate with the winning run on a Willie Watson hit in the bottom of the sixth, as the Cockstars won, 10-9.

The V in victory was spelled out by homers by Vetter, Michael, and Velez, Rich, as the Stud Puppies outran the Golden Bears, 14-12.



Women's Division

Sabin Chiropractic cracked out a five-run rally in the first inning, paced by a pair of doubles by Deb Fix and Chris Callans. The Cafe chipped back, with a five-for-five performance by Maureen Hogan that included three doubles of her own, as The Cafe topped Sabin, 14-7, and secured the top seed in the playoffs.

Cathy Sutton helped drive in two big runs to break a 2-2 tie, as Kim Kinker and Lynne Picchi scored in the bottom of the fifth to lift Leticia's over Cafe Too, 4-2.

Pier 50/Olive Oil's blanked Cafe Too, 5-0.

Silverman's Chiropractic watched a 10-4 lead melt away in the top of the final inning as the Metro rallied for six runs to tie the game. But Silverman's rallied back for the one run they needed as Novella knocked Courtney home for Silverman's victory, 11-10.

Talk about comebacks, Friend & Friedman dug deep for seven runs in the seventh to turn a 2-8 deficit into a 9-8 win over Cafe Too.

F&F had a big day, by beating Leticia's 8-5, but Leticia's evened the score with a 1-0 continuation victory to break a tie that was held over from weeks past.

GSL playoffs begin July 11. ▼

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SAN FRANCISCO June
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MEN'S SWEAT
Sunday 3 pm-12
Wednesday 4 pm-12

2051 Market Hotline: 864-3767

Video

Swap Meat

by Johnny C. Lately

Even though *Cruisin' 57* is supposed to take place in Philadelphia of the 1950s, the cars used in the beginning of the video are definitely of '60s vintage. And so are the costumes worn by the models (when they are wearing clothes). So the film's try at producing '50s style porn is only an approximation, at best. Sitting in the '90s, watching a vintage '70s porn flick that attempts to recreate the '50s, is enough to make you dizzy.

As is the case in many films from the '70s, this video lacks savvy and sophistication. It's often hard to hear what the actors are saying, or moaning. Not that dialogue is that necessary in this venue, but if it communicates the story, it's always nice to know what is happening. The videography leaves much to be desired. The takes are usually done with little or no lighting, resulting in really lousy cum shots where you can't see anything and you wonder if they actually came at all. The sound track is music taped off a really irritating radio station, commercials included. This is supposed to add to the '50s ambience? I don't think so.

The sex, on the other hand, is not bad. All the scenes are solo or couple acts. There aren't any group scenes. As a matter of fact, I don't even think people knew what orgies were in the '50s. But the boys are cute with big dicks. Not much is said when sex is occurring, which is nice. And the actors seem to be genuinely into it, not posed for every move, jerk, or thrust.

There is something innocent about the men in this video that brings back a nostalgia for the days when I was growing up. Michael Muni, the main character, does a stimulating solo jerk-off that got me squirting. Tough guy Terry Winter allows Muni to seduce him with booze and then tells him to get lost after he fucks the hell out of him.

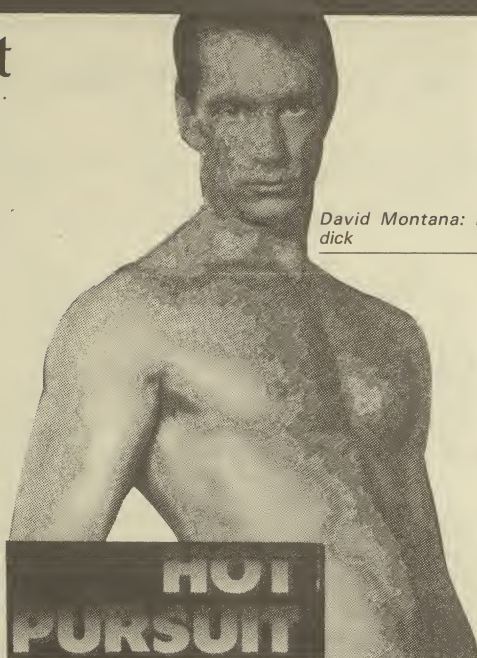
This is reminiscent of those high school bullies who did whoever they wanted and got away with it because they knew they had the power: a really big dick.

The final line that is displayed on the screen was more than I could take "After an absence of 60 years from the Silver Screen we are bringing you back the glamour and splendor that adorned the silent screen." Time for a reality check. On a scale of eroticism that peaks with four squirts, I give *Cruisin' 57* one squirt.

Cruisin' 57
Bijou Video

Hot Pursuit is quite a different story. Another new Falcon pasteurization, this one takes place in San Francisco. It follows the main character, David Montana, through his travels into such worldly hangouts as The Pit and Blow Buddies looking for his ex-slut lover. All this is familiar territory to those of us who are still looking for our future ex-husbands, but who cares.

What really bothers me about this video is the fact



David Montana: big dick

that none of the models has any body hair. And only one brave soul sports facial hair, Cliff Parker. He looks great and has a beautiful butt. If I didn't know some of the actors and recognize the San Francisco haunts, I would have sworn the video was done in L.A. and sponsored by Gillette. Where are the real people?

But as always, Falcon delivers when it comes to good hot slippery, sweaty, sex. Most of the scenes are group scenes with three or more, and there's only one duet. But there's too much stiff and awkward dialogue. Much of the script, as weak as it is, could be dropped and filled with more penetrating action — something equally stiff but less awkward. Most of these prime cuts are not actors; they should stick to what they know best, fucking and sucking.

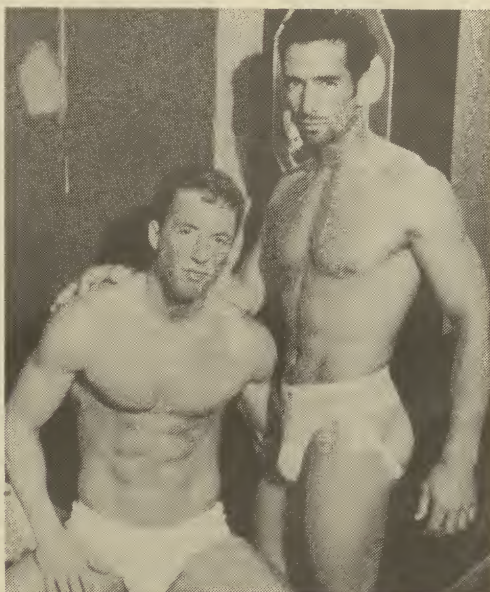
One especially erotic scene takes place with two fellows bonking on a chain link fence. The hero, horse-hung David Montana, comes across the enthralled couple on the other side of the fence which makes for a great "so close yet so far

away" scenario. It's a real treat for those voyeurs who can't keep their hands off themselves. David Montana lives nearby and, rumor has it, he almost lost his day job because of this "performance." Montana not only has a great body but he has the biggest throat scrubber in the movie. If you like big dicks, and I do, this one is well worth watching.

Many cast members from *Hot Pursuit* can be found pumping up at the Muscle System on their days off. Away from the set, if you haven't already guessed their profession from their level of self-absorption, the bulges in their spandex quickly give it away. Muscle Sisters might also note who attends the pay phone regularly as a clue to another, somewhat related vocation.

The bottom line in this video is sex. Forget about the story, when and where it was made, or how the actors look with their clothes on. If the sex isn't any good then why bother watching? *Hot Pursuit* gets a solid three squirts from me.

Hot Pursuit
Falcon Video



Muscle System refugees from *Hot Pursuit*

Pool

(Continued from page 104)

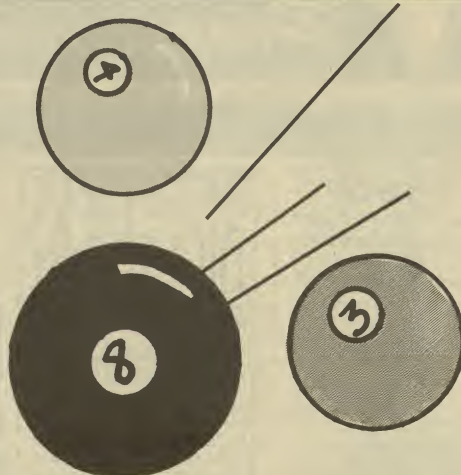
begin a match in which neither team would lead by more than two games with a game one table run. With the match on the line at 8-7, Pelletier played a magnificent two-rail position shot for perfect 8-ball position to win the match and complete a perfect 4-0 personal performance.

In the second of their best-of-three match series played Thursday, July 10, at the Cinch, the two teams again locked in a seesaw match. E.Z. tied it up at 8-8 with a table run only to see Rex Norman win the 17th game tie-breaker.

The final match returned to Cafe on July 15, and again the match would see ties at 2-2, 4-4, and 6-6 before a Westhoven table run put the fools on the hill and Ward faced off with Norman, the Spoilers' strongest talent. Ward's table run for the series victory was a show-stopper, and Q-Club cum Spoilers' stranglehold on the city title was broken.

No 2-seeded International Borders wasn't seriously challenged in its series sweep of No. 14 seed, Transformations, the giant killers who topped the No. 3 seed, Cinch It Up, and No. 6, Border Patrol. Transformations subsequently earned third place in the title race — a major accomplishment in the talent-laden playoff field.

In the wake of Norman's loss, the mood at the first championship match was subdued. Borderline Manager Rey Bustillo, himself a former league player, laid out a sumptuous platter of Mexican morsels for the competitors as the Fulishness pulled out to an early lead. The Borders came back to keep it close, but no one had an answer for Westhoven, who ended it at 9-6 on his fourth win of the night. The championship will be decided this week. Dial JOE-POOL for information. ▼



People and Personals

People

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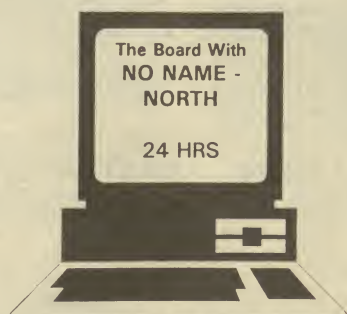
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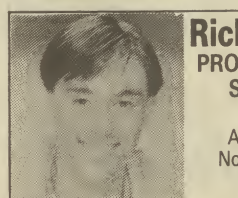


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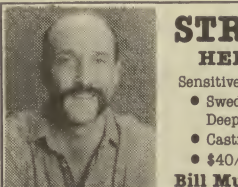
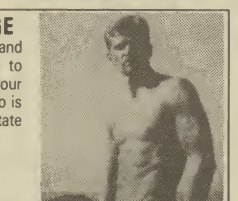
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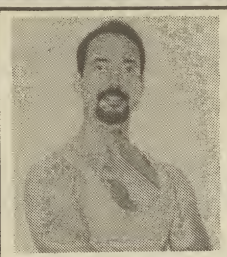
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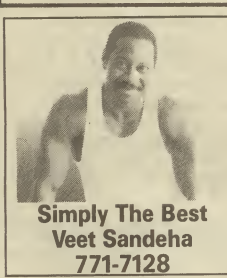


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Holistic Massage Therapy
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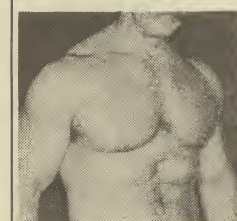
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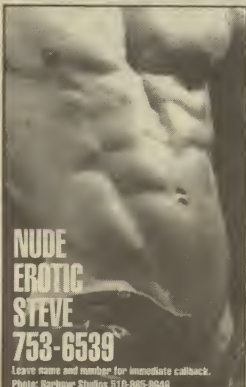


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STEVE**
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Leave name and number for immediate callback.
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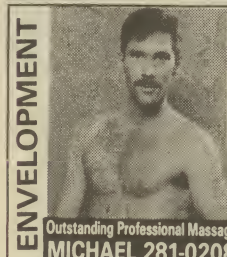
-MAN TO MAN-

Full Body Massage

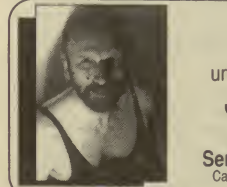


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A RELAXING MASSAGE
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Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
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People and Personals

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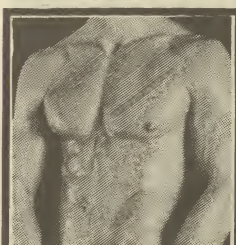
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blond/blue/tan/smooth
HOT NUDE MASSAGE
24 Hrs. 905-4548 Lv# \$80/oup
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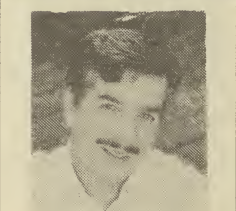
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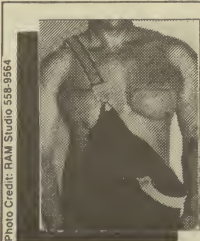
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Muscular Latin Man with
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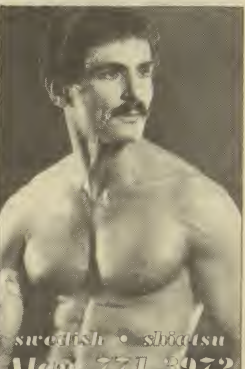
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safe. \$60

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5'10", 180#, Sexy, Hard, and
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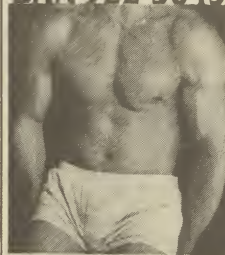
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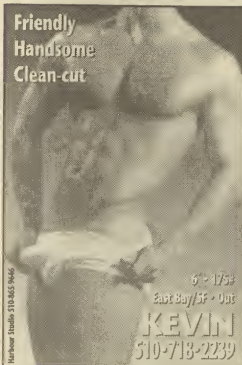
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READY TO PLAY! VERY
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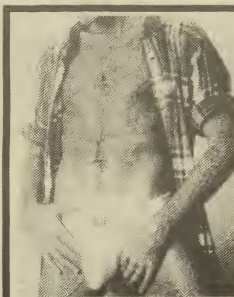


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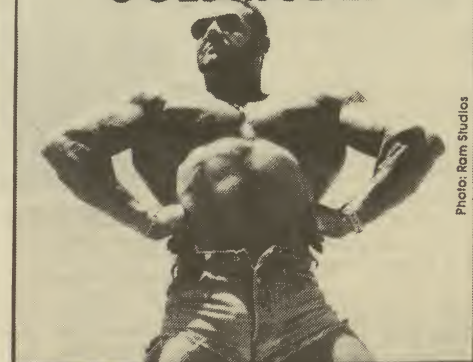
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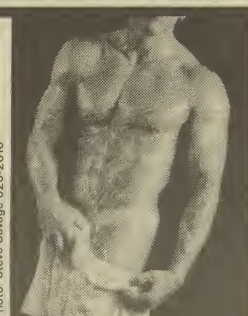
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To Work You Or Serve You
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25Y.O.HUNG10X7

Tall Masc. GdLkg.
24 hrs. Tony 245-6619 In/Out

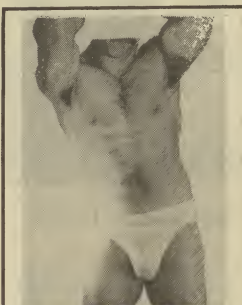
FANTASY



SENSUAL MASSAGE

Foot Fetish - Hi-Tops, Boots,
bare. \$50/60 Bpr. 809-6940:25

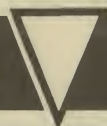
So Ya Like Young Boys?
This Go-Go Boy Wants It!
Smooth, Trim, Tight!!
Call Tony, In/out. 560-9794



JASON
175 lbs., 5'8 1/2", 46" C, 29" W
864-2070 • \$115

GdLkg, 6'1", 165 lbs.,
ASIAN TOP
\$60 Jim 267-1817

YOUNG AND BUFFED
Straight looking hunk, 23,
5'11", 195 lbs., dark Italian
hot 48" chest, 30" wst, 8" x6"
pumped bod, cute face, very
likable, Mike (415) 896-8001:25



People and Personals

MODELS & ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

—long, & slow—my specialty.
6'2", 175, strong, gymtuned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leathersex:
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, ranch.
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DAD WITH GREAT HANDS

WILL

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Exceptional Models & Escorts
for new escort agency. J.
Jacques 775-4771 24-hours E25

Dominant
STUD BLOND BOY
Clay 864-0670 E25

gdlkg, hairy, 8 1/2", verbal

IRISH STUD

Mike 673-4771 24 hrs. E25

9x6 24 HOURS

Call: 775-4771 24 Hours E25

AI 985-7063

BROWN HANKIE TOP

Handsome, 6'4", 175, Hot E30

Distinguished Leatherman

handsome, hung, age 40
\$70. Dan 441-8111 No S&M E25

BEST BOY



PHOTO: RAM STUDIOS

RANDY 804.5818

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A Discreet Agency
Offering Excellent
Models Who Care

Call ARON
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Hot Straight Looking Stud

★ SAN JOSE ★

Hunky & Hndsm, 170, 5'10"
Brwn, Blue, Out. (415) 560-0034 E25



Midnight
Snack

Choice

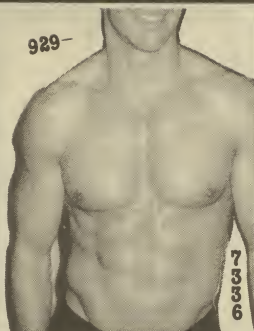
Italian

Uncut

245-0392

photo RAM STUDIOS

929-



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MARIN/SF \$60-\$80
10AM-11PM

TOM

489-4217

TAKE IT EASY



RAM STUDIOS 558-9564

MAKE IT HARD LEX 207-5231

Head for the Best—Smooth,
Lean, Cute, Hot. Dan 626-1753 E25

HOT ASIAN

Hot 20 y/o ready to please
Richard 703-7164 Out Only E25

HOT STUD "9"

Call: 775-4771 24-hours E25



Photo Credit: RAM Studio 553-8172

RYAN

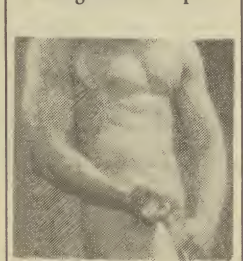
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Affection

BAY AREA/OUT

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Bondage and Discipline



SM Domination, Etc.
Young, Smooth
Ken 648-7260

FRENCH MARINE

Body Builder

240 Pounds, 25 years old

6'1", 52" ch., 20" a.

New In Town

From Paris

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Experience the
HEAT!!!!

Very Handsome Latino.

Sexy, hot, hung, easy

going, vers/bitm.

Call Esteban

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no time limit

FRIENDLY BEAR

40, 6'5", hairy, beard, u/c

into most scenes. 1st timers

welcome. Ed 679-3680 E25

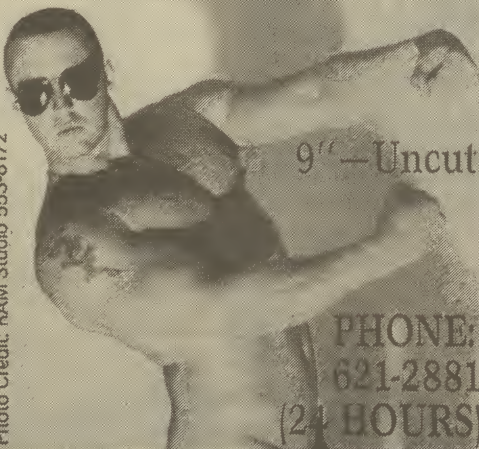
SEXY GUY

Hung 9" and the Hottest



775-4771 24 Hours

6 ft., 210 lbs.



9"—Uncut

PHONE:
621-2881
(24 HOURS)

Hot Bottom Black & Built
390-9973 James E25

Daddy—40 and Wise
Into All Scenes. Nick 885-1471 E25

tough, handsome, baby face
ASS OF DEATH

6', 180#, chiseled body
719-5514: pager. Punch in #E25

San Jose Stud Kicks Back
•Great Face, chest & butt•
Safe & Sane (408) 237-8648 E25

PLEASURE TORTURE

Even if you are a complete beginner I can teach you how to relax
into new pleasures. No marks, no fluid exchange, no crude
caricatures of power and masculinity, just slow, sensual, creative
and safe pleasure-torture. If you've been curious about bondage
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I'm short, built (5'7", 160 lbs., 29w, 42c, 16a) handsome,
dominant, and experienced, but relaxed.

ROGER 626-3034



Hot Young Italian
Body Builder

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handsome GQ face

RUGGED MODEL

perfect masculine body

6', 180#, 8x6 \$100 998-1934 E25

SKIN HEAD BOY

24, 5'10", 155, Versatile

Smooth Chest, Clean Shaven

\$60/80 Troy 546-3771 E25

HOT MOUTH

Attractive•26 yrs.•Hung

Afternoon &

repeat discounts

JEFF 255-0731

TOTAL WORSHIP

9x6 TOP

Very handsome man
well built clean cut
well hung low hangers
guaranteed hot stud
26 yr 185 6 ft. br/br
\$80in/\$100 out 24 hrs.

KURT 928-6322

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Aug. 1st, 1993

More Info 648-3247

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GWM! 43 years young! Your!

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sexy body

Scott

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Pecs, Poppers, Castro

St. 24 Hrs. \$60 Joe 255-7630 E25

Straight White Trucker, 36

6'2", 200#, Blue Eyes, Hairy

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Top only in SF this wknd

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Required (415) 621-5207 E25

THICK BODY BUILDER TOM

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Young Fit and Cute 21 y/o

5'8", 150 lbs., smooth. Ready

to play. Jim \$70 456-1799 E25

COLTS

SCOOTER

641-7773 E25

6ft. 8", Size 15 Shoes, Stache

Sm Drk Hr, Friendly, Hunk 24 hr.

Hungry Holes. CB# 280-0019

\$100/Out Hotel OK Brent E25

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FOR ALL YOUR
ADULT MALE NEEDS

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FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK!
OUR GREATEST 2-MAN
LIVE SHOW EVER!

LIVE! TOTALLY NAKED! TOGETHER! STAGE IN PERSON!
Two jack-off kings that will annihilate your senses!

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SIX FOOT, TWO INCH

MIKE STEEL

Together With

RHODE ISLAND BAD BOY

SIX FOOT, ONE INCH

BIG "J"

King of the east coast
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PORN VIDEO STAR:
Huge Torpedoes
Boot Worship

TORSO
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MIKE & BIG "J"
TOGETHER: 11:30 PM NIGHTLY

MIKE SOLO - 5:30 & 9:00
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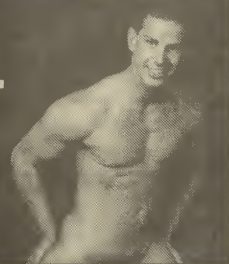
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3:00 & 10:00 PM

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- Free beverage & snack on our cruise patio! -

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come here!

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JULY 9th
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NOVELTY STORE & VIDEO RENTALS
Largest SF gay video arcade • 30 Cubicles
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